

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

New Militant Labor Forum hall opens in Atlanta

—PAGE 3

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 14

APRIL 9, 2007

More workers arrested in Swift raids convicted of 'identity theft'

BY FRANK FORRESTAL AND JOE SWANSON

DES MOINES, Iowa, March 27—On the second day of her trial today, Eloísa Núñez Galeana was found guilty on "identity theft" felony charges. Along with 99 other meat packers, Núñez, who hails from Mexico, was arrested by immigration agents in the Dec. 12, 2006, raid of the Swift plant in nearby Marshalltown, Iowa.

Since her arrest, Núñez has been held in a Des Moines jail. Hired by Swift in 2003, Núñez worked on the cut floor as a trimmer.

Earlier this month, another Swift worker from the Marshalltown plant, Lorena Andrade Rodríguez, was convicted on similar felony charges. The mother of two children, Rodríguez said she used another person's identity "out of need" to support her family. Andrade is appealing the verdict.

Núñez was the subject of an article headlined, "Illegal Worker, Troubled Citizen and Stolen Name," which was published on the front page of the March 22 *New York Times*. The article said that Núñez, and several other female immigrant workers arrested in the raids, are

Continued on page 4

UN Security Council stiffens sanctions against Iran

BY CINDY JAQUITH

March 28—The United Nations Security Council imposed stiffer sanctions against Iran March 24 for not suspending its enrichment of uranium. The new sanctions, approved unanimously, prohibit arms exports from Iran and freeze the financial assets abroad of 28 individuals and companies tied to Tehran, including commanders of the Revolutionary Guards—part of that country's armed forces—and Bank Sepah, a major Iranian bank.

At the same time, tensions between London and Washington, on one hand, and Tehran, on the other, have heightened over the March 23 arrest of 15 British marines in the Arab-Persian Gulf that the Iranian Navy said it captured in Iranian waters.

Earlier, on December 23, the UN Security Council had adopted sanctions against Iran for continuing its program of uranium enrichment, a process necessary for creating fuel for nuclear reactors. If enriched at a higher grade, the fuel can also be used for atomic weapons. The Security Council warned of further

Continued on page 9

House: \$124 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan wars

\$31 billion more than Bush requested; Democrats portray measure as 'antiwar'



AFP/Getty Images/David Furst

U.S. soldiers from Gator Company 2-12 Infantry Battalion engage in firefight March 22 in al-Dora, a predominantly Sunni neighborhood of southern Baghdad.

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, March 26—The U.S. House of Representatives approved an "emergency" spending bill March 23 allocating \$124 billion for Washington's imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The measure provides \$31 billion more than the Bush administration initially requested.

At the same time, the Democratic leadership in the House and most of

the big-business media have gone out of their way to portray this bill as "antiwar" because it sets a deadline of Sept. 1, 2008, for pulling most U.S. troops out of combat roles in Iraq.

Speaking for those in the ruling class who insist on an unflinching pursuit of Washington's war aim to establish a stable client regime in Baghdad, U.S. president George Bush said March 23

Continued on page 9

Montreal event promotes book on Chinese Cubans in Cuban Revolution

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL—Despite a late-winter storm that had dumped up to 15 inches of snow across the region, more than 50 people packed a meeting room on the edge of Montreal's historic Chinatown March 17 for a panel discussion of the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story*

of *Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press.

The meeting was sponsored by the Chinese Team at Radio Centre-Ville, Festival Accès Asie, the Table de concertation Québec-Cuba, and Pathfinder Books. A number of participants came

Continued on page 6



Militant/Andrea Ellis

Speakers at March 17 meeting in Montreal on *Our History Is Still Being Written*. From left: Yvonne Lo, organizer of the Chinese-language team at Radio Centre-Ville; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and president of Pathfinder Press; Janet Lumb, director of the cultural group Festival Accès Asie; and Armand Vaillancourt, a sculptor.

108 coal miners die in Russia after blast at Siberia mine

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In one of the worst mining disasters in the country's history, 108 coal miners were killed in a methane gas explosion at the Ulyanovskaya mine in Siberia, Russia, March 19. About 200 workers were underground at the time of the blast. Only 93 of them made it to the surface safely.

The mine is located near the city of Novokuznetsk in central Siberia's Kuzbass region, which holds some of the largest coal reserves in the world. Deteriorating safety and company-imposed speedup created dangerous conditions leading up to the blast.

According to the ITAR-Tass news agency, this was the deadliest mine accident in the Kuzbass region in 60 years.

The Ulyanovskaya mine, which has been in operation since 2002, is one of the newer, more modern ones in the region. It produces 3 million tons of coal annually. The mine is owned by Yuzh-kuzbassugol, a subsidiary of the Evraz metals groups. The company said it plans to have the mine up and running again by the summer.

The explosion occurred after the collapse of the mine's main roof, spreading methane through its inner corridors, reported the Ria Novosti news agency. There were no gas monitors in the area

where the methane gas had accumulated, Nikolai Kultyn, an inspector with the federal industrial regulator Rostekhnadzor, told the Associated Press.

It's "imperative to suspend underground coal extraction without the necessary clearing of methane from the mine's surface," Alexander Sergeyev, head of the Independent Trade Union of Russian Miners, told the radio station Ekho Moskvyy.

Sergeyev also pointed out that underground miners in Russia, who take home about \$575 a month, are dependent on production bonuses for about 60 percent

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

- Tokyo denies use in WWII of sex slaves for its troops 2
- Koreans in Japan fight discrimination, repression 3
- Pennsylvania anti-immigrant law challenged in court 4
- Can 'card check' help reverse U.S. unions' decline? 7

Tokyo denies use of sex slaves for its troops during WWII

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

March 16—The controversy over the role played by the Japanese government in coercing some 200,000 women, mostly Korean and Chinese, to be sex slaves for its troops in the 1930s and '40s has erupted anew. Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe told Parliament March 5 Tokyo would not apologize for this policy towards what he described as "comfort women."

Government officials in China, north Korea, and south Korea promptly condemned Abe's statement.

"Testimony to the effect that there had been a hunt for comfort women is a complete fabrication," Abe stated. He further claimed that the placing of these women into brothels was undertaken not by Japanese government and military officials, but by contractors used by Japan's military.

Abe was responding to a nonbinding resolution being circulated in the U.S. House of Representatives. The document calls on Tokyo to "formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility. . . for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery." Several of these women, now in their 70s and 80s, testified in Congress about their ordeal.

One of them was Lee Yong-soo, 78, from Korea. Yong-soo said she was kidnapped by Japanese soldiers at age 16 and raped repeatedly at an army brothel. At a news conference in Tokyo she described how Japanese soldiers dragged her from her home, covering her mouth so she could not call to her mother, reported a March 6 *New York Times* article.

"I want Japan and the Japanese prime minister to apologize," she told the

Times. "As a victim who was forcibly taken, as someone who lived through those events, I'm a living witness."

Many of these women remain active in the fight to win redress from the Japanese government. Shortly before Abe's comments, an international conference for Japan's former sex slaves was held in Sydney, Australia.

Japanese officials forced many women to be sex slaves from Korea—a colony of Japan from 1910 to 1945—and China. Tokyo invaded Manchuria in 1931 and then the rest of China in 1937, occupying Chinese territory until the end of World War II. When U.S. soldiers began their postwar occupation of Japan, similar brothels were also set up across the country with Japanese women forced into prostitution for U.S. soldiers.

In 1993 Tokyo issued an apology that acknowledged the government had a role in forcing women into sexual slavery, but this statement was never approved by Parliament. A private fund was then set up to compensate these women, but many refused to accept any of this money. They demanded instead that Tokyo take responsibility and apologize directly to them. Only 285 women accepted funds, the payment of which is being terminated at the end of March.



Reuters/You Sung-ho

Korean women, who were forced to become sex slaves by the Japanese military during World War II, protest in front of Japanese embassy in Seoul, March 7.

In response to criticisms by conservative legislators about the 1993 government statement, Abe also told the media that the Liberal Democratic Party, which he heads, will conduct its own review of the validity of the admissions it made.

In an effort by Washington to take the moral high ground against its imperialist competitor, U.S. deputy secretary of state John Negroponte described on March 9 Tokyo's treatment of women sex slaves as "most deplorable."

Negroponte, however, failed to mention the similar treatment of women organized around U.S. military bases

worldwide. According to the Asia Pacific Research Network, before U.S. bases were closed in the Philippines in 1992 there were 2,182 "rest and recreation" facilities involving 50,000 to 55,000 women prostitutes in Angeles and Olongapo cities, where the bases were located.

During the Vietnam War, similar brothels were set up in Thailand under a 1967 pact Washington made with Bangkok. About 700,000 U.S. soldiers visited these brothels each year from 1967 to 1976, the Asia Pacific Research Network reported.

New Zealand: protesters slam acquittal of cops accused of rape

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—"Cops rape" read one sign at a March 8 protest here, called in anger at the acquittal of three policemen in two highly publicized rape trials. The action marked International Women's Day.

"However we dress, wherever we go, yes means yes, and no means no,"

chanted the spirited protesters. A similar march was held in Wellington, with several hundred joining in each city.

In 2004, Louise Nicholas publicly accused three cops of pack-raping and violating her with a police baton in the mid-1980s, while she was a teenager. The three, Brad Shipton, Robert Schollum, and Clint Rickards, all admitted to having sex with Nicholas but claimed she had consented. A jury found them not guilty in a trial last year.

The resulting publicity gave other women confidence to come forward with reports of being raped by cops. On March 1, the three men were again acquitted on similar charges brought by a second woman. Following that trial, suppression orders were lifted to reveal that Shipton and Schollum had already been jailed for rape in an earlier court case involving a third woman.

Another cop, John Dewar, is facing charges of attempting to obstruct the course of justice for dismissing Nicholas's original charges of pack-rape filed in 1993. At that time, Dewar was chief inspector of the Rotorua Criminal Investigation Branch. Rickards is reportedly under investigation over further allegations.

The recent trial has dominated headlines and broader discussions here. Prime Minister Helen Clark and other ruling-class figures have raised doubts about whether Rickards should return to his job as assistant police commissioner, one of the highest positions in the police force.

A government commission of inquiry into police conduct, established in 2004, has received up to 200 complaints of rape and sexual assaults by cops. The commission is limited to making general findings and is not dealing with individual cases. Its findings will be released shortly.

THE MILITANT

'Offers ideas workers can use to fight'

"I subscribe to the 'Militant' because it explains labor fights, imperialist war, immigrant rights, and the Cuban Revolution. It advances ideas working people can use to fight."

—Mauricio Araniva
Madison, Wisconsin



Mauricio Araniva is a Spanish-language teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

PHONE _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 14

Closing news date: March 28, 2007

Editor and circulation director:
Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Maura DeLuca, Martín Koppel, Olympia Newton, Paul Pederson, Jacob Perasso, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send \$80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East:

Send \$65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,200 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

New Militant Labor Forum hall opens in Atlanta

BY LISA POTASH
AND DAVE PRINCE

ATLANTA, March 24—More than 60 people enthusiastically celebrated the grand opening of a new workers center here this evening, with an international banquet and program to launch the *Militant* spring subscription drive and fund appeal. Those present pledged or contributed more than \$4,000 to the *Militant* fund drive.

Many of those in attendance had contributed their volunteer labor, skills, and money over the last three weeks to construct the center.

Working people and youth from Atlanta and the surrounding region can meet, read, study, hold classes, and plan their political work at the hall. Militant Labor Forums, organized by supporters of the *Militant* newspaper, will be held here every Friday evening. Pathfinder Books, as well as the local headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists, also share space in the hall.

The event attracted people from Birmingham, Alabama; Houston; Miami; and the Carolinas in the South. Some people came from as far as New York, New Jersey, and West Virginia. Participants included members of a team of *Militant* supporters from Birmingham who had gone to Pascagoula, Mississippi, last week to report on the strike by 8,000 shipyard workers there and get the *Militant* around.

About 15 of those present participated in the meeting through simultaneous translation from the floor. They included Spanish-speaking workers from the Atlanta area, and from a garment shop 45 minutes west of the city, near the Georgia-Alabama border. Many are subscribers and promoters of *El Militante*.

To facilitate such events in the future, and ensure participation on an equal basis of working people speaking various languages, organizers of the Militant Labor Forum are now fundraising to rapidly acquire a wireless translation system.

The move to a new location places the Militant Labor Forum hall right in the center of this major southern city, on a busy commercial street in its West End, one of the main centers of Atlanta's Black community.

Ellie García, the organizer of the SWP in Atlanta, chaired the meeting and welcomed people to the grand opening. The turnout, she said, "means we can all look forward to further expansion."

Róger Calero, a member of the SWP National Committee and national organizer of the *Militant's* spring subscription campaign, kicked off the program.

Pointing to capitalism's growing instability, Calero said Washington's multi-theater "war on terrorism" is an extension of its domestic policies. These include factory raids and deportations, which are part of the rulers' response to working-class resistance. The *Militant* is not just a "good source of information," he noted, but a tool more and more workers use to fight the bosses and their government. He pointed to the Cuban Revolution and the need to build a revolutionary workers' party to emulate its example in the United States.

Reynaldo Ruiz, a *Militant* subscriber who works in an area warehouse and convinced three of his coworkers to subscribe to the paper, gave the fund pitch.

"I first read the *Militant* when my sister brought it home and put it on the breakfast table," he said. "She got it from a coworker. Since then I've encouraged

people to read the paper and Pathfinder books." The *Militant* is important to the working class because it brings workers here news about struggles around the world, he said.

Also speaking was Ross Hogan, a member of the Young Socialists National Steering Committee, who had just returned from the meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, of the General Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

A leader of Cajolas United in Solidarity with Guatemala, a group of Guatemalan workers in the city, brought greetings to the celebration from his organization. He and other members of his group helped build the new center. He described

Continued on page 8



Militant photos by Dave Wulp
Grand opening of new Militant Labor Forum hall in Atlanta March 24. Upper left: Reynaldo Ruiz (left), who gave fund pitch at event, alongside Róger Calero and Ellie García. Upper right: Linda Joyce (standing) translating program into Spanish. Bottom right: Part of audience of more than 60 people.



Koreans in Japan resist gov't repression

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

HANOI, Vietnam—"In recent months, the Japanese authorities have stepped up their repressive actions against Korean residents in Japan," said Ryon Munsong of the Korean Youth League in Japan (KYLJ), in a March 11 interview here. "Tokyo's repressive policies have emboldened right-wing elements to violently attack Koreans in Japan," he explained.

Winning solidarity for their struggle to end Tokyo's discrimination was a campaign of the KYLJ during the March 10-13 General Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth here.

Japan formally annexed Korea in 1910. Between then and 1945, Tokyo forcibly "relocated" 10 percent of Korea's population to serve in its army, labor in Japanese industry, or be forced into sexual slavery for its army (see article on page 2). Today, Korean residents in Japan, both the "relocated" generation and their children and grandchildren, face discrimination in education, housing, and employment, said Taeshik Chon, also of the KYLJ.

On December 5, some 200 Tokyo cops in full riot gear raided the offices of the

Association of Korean Residents in Japan and arrested several of its leaders. Most of those detained were later released without charges, according to Chon.

"Since July, the Japanese authorities have raided 47 Korean schools, businesses, and homes," said Chon.

"Several right-wing Japanese youth have attacked Korean students," said Munsong. "These attacks have been going on for years," he explained, but have risen since Tokyo increased sanctions against north Korea after Pyongyang tested a missile in July and then a nuclear bomb three months later.

In October, Tokyo banned the service of a Korean ferry boat operated by the Red Cross that took humanitarian aid to north Korea. The boat was the cheapest and fastest method for Koreans living in Japan to visit their relatives in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), since Tokyo and Pyongyang do not have diplomatic relations.

According to Munsong and Chon, Korean residents in Japan have not been able to send money to their relatives in north Korea since Tokyo cut off remittances in July.



Korean youth in Japan protest March 3 against discrimination and Tokyo's increased hostility toward Korea.

The Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the KYLJ have organized protest actions demanding Tokyo end its repression against Koreans in Japan and lift the sanctions and normalize relations with the DPRK. "We have won support in our struggle from some Japanese individuals and organizations, including trade unions," said Chon.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

FLORIDA

Miami

British Troops Out of Northern Ireland! The Working-Class Road to Irish National Liberation. Speaker: Ellen Brickley, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 6. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 8365 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 206. Tel. (305) 756-4436.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Independence for Puerto Rico: Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners. Speakers: Ben Ramos, ProLibertad; Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 6. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 307 W. 36th Street, 10th floor (near 8th Ave., use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

TEXAS

Houston

Government Reports Two Years After BP Blast: Bosses' Cost-Cutting Cost the Lives of 15 Workers. Speaker: Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 6, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

Lowell

Free the Cuban Five: A Platform Discussion on U.S. Terrorism and Political Imprisonment. Tues., April 3, 6:00 p.m. University of Massachusetts, Lowell South Campus, O'Leary 222. Sponsored by Student Socialist Coalition and Young Socialists.

Presentations of 'Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution'

IOWA

Iowa City

Wed., April 4. Reception, 3:30 p.m.; panel discussion, 4:00 p.m. Speakers: Ben Mai, president of Asian American Coalition, University of Iowa; John Lee, president of Korean Undergraduate Student Association, UI; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written*, president of Pathfinder Press; Professor Marcella David, Associate Provost; Dr. Dau-shen Ju, director of Student Disability Services, UI. University of Iowa, Ohio State Room (#303) IMU. For more information, email: benqmai@gmail.com

Des Moines

Thurs., April 5, 7:00 p.m. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters; Arson Xu, Samuel Li, Verónica

NEW YORK

Manhattan

March and Rally to Demand: U.S. Hands Off Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia—Free the Cuban Five. Sat., April 7. Gather at Bryant Park, 42 St. at 6th Ave., at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact April 7 Coalition at (917) 887-8710 or visit www.april7coalition.org

Méndez, Drake University students. Drake University, Upper Olmsted Center, Conference Rooms 312-313. For more information, e-mail: gx0001@drake.edu; or isa@drake.edu

NEW JERSEY

Montclair

Thurs., April 12, 7:00 p.m. Speakers: Mabel Almonte, Latin American Student Organization; Yoland Skeete, director, Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center in Newark, author of forthcoming book *When Newark Had a Chinatown*; Martin Koppel, an interviewer for the book *Our History Is Still Being Written*. University Hall, Room 1040, Montclair State University. For more information, Tel.: (973) 655-4440.

Pennsylvania anti-immigrant law is challenged in court

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA—A federal trial on the constitutionality of an anti-immigrant ordinance in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, closed March 22. The measure has become a rallying point nationally for capitalist politicians pushing attacks on immigrant workers and has been copied in several other towns throughout the country.

The local Illegal Immigration Relief Act would deny business licenses to companies that hire undocumented immigrants, and would create a city agency that must review residency documents before anyone can rent an apartment. A second ordinance, which would establish English as the official language of city affairs in Hazleton, is under a temporary court restrain-

Swift workers

Continued from front page
“resolved to fight the charges against them rather than make a deal with prosecutors that would lead to their deportation with no chance of legal return.”

Núñez was defended by Michael Mayer and Michael Said, two immigration attorneys based in Des Moines. Núñez’s three children are now reportedly under the care of her sister, who also works at the Swift plant.

In a related development, eight meat packers from the Swift plant in Cactus, Texas, pleaded guilty March 13 to felony charges stemming from the immigration raid of that plant.

The federal government’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided six Swift plants nationwide in December, in the largest such raid ever against a single employer.

Of the nearly 300 workers arrested at the Cactus plant, 53 face criminal charges in a federal court in Amarillo, Texas.

One worker, who pleaded guilty to re-entering the United States without proper documentation after being deported, faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

On March 20, another five Swift workers from the Cactus plant pleaded guilty to felony charges of using false Social Security numbers and fake papers. They face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. On the same day, six other workers pleaded guilty to misdemeanor counts and were each sentenced to 100 days in jail, according to the Associated Press. Cases are still pending against the remaining 34 workers arrested in Cactus.

On February 26, four workers from the Swift plant in Louisville, Kentucky, were sentenced in federal court for using false papers. U.S. District Court Judge John Heyburn, sentenced each worker to five months in federal prison. After serving their sentences, each of the meat packers will be subject to deportation. The Louisville plant was the only Swift slaughterhouse that wasn’t raided in December. In that operation, which took place in October 2006, ICE agents arrested the meat packers while they were at work.

According to the ICE website, of the 1,297 workers arrested in the Swift raids, 649 have “been removed from the United States.” The countries of origin of the deported workers include Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru.

ing order.

After the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit challenging the ordinance, city officials on September 1 postponed implementation of the act. A ruling by U.S. District Judge James Munley in Scranton, Pennsylvania, is not expected until May.

Hazleton mayor Louis Barletta, who proposed the law, has spent the last several months speaking out in defense of the legislation and hammering away at his catchphrase, “Illegal is illegal.”

The defense presented witnesses to bolster their assertions that undocumented immigrants have caused an increased crime rate and higher costs for city social services. Testifying for the defense, George Borjas, a professor of economic and social policy at Harvard University, argued that wages in Hazleton would rise if the ordinance goes into effect.

A number of immigrant rights representatives testified for those challenging the ordinance. José Molina, director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Latino Coalition, described how he and other Latinos were intimidated at a rally last

Wisconsin protesters: ‘No REAL ID!’



Militant/Jorge Lertora

MADISON, Wisconsin, March 24—About 1,000 people marched here today to oppose implementation of REAL ID in this state, that is, the establishment of an official, government-issued identification card. The UNITE HERE union brought more than 100 people from the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Madison areas to the protest.

—ROLLANDE GIRARD

September when participants were videotaped “up and down” by the Hazleton police.

An immigrant rights rally opposing the law was held March 12 at the federal courthouse. Heather Buck, whose fi-

ancé José Arias was arrested in January and faces deportation to Mexico, told demonstrators that “he was picked up just for walking down the street.” She said the family is fighting the deportation order.

Socialist candidate in Houston: ‘Stop the raids!’

BY AMANDA ULMAN

HOUSTON—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign here and its candidate, Anthony Dutrow for Houston City Council At-Large Position 3, are busy reaching out to workers and youth with the working-class alternative to all the capitalist candidates.

The socialist candidate was certified for the ballot in a special May 12 election after paying a \$500 filing fee.

Dutrow, 62, a meat packer at the Tyson plant here, recently returned from a solidarity trip to Cactus, Texas, where he and others met with workers from the Swift meatpacking plant and in local neighborhoods. Cactus was one of the cities targeted nationwide by Homeland Security cops in their December 12 immigration raids at several Swift plants.

Dutrow noted that “most Swift workers and others who live in Cactus expressed

solidarity with those arrested and were outraged at the *migra* cops. This is far from the picture you get from the main newspapers, which say these people are intimidated or totally divided by the raid. Many workers were eager to talk to us about what had happened.”

At the March 16 campaign launching here, Dutrow said, “Our campaign demands a stop to the raids and deportations. Drop the ‘identity theft’ and other charges against these workers. Fighting for immediate legalization of immigrants is in the interest of all working people. It’s a central part of fighting for unity within our class in order to advance struggles by workers to organize unions and to use union power to effectively resist the bosses’ attacks on wages, working conditions, dignity, and safety on the job.”

The Socialist Workers campaign is also the only campaign calling for an

immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and other “coalition” troops from Afghanistan and Iraq and all the theaters of imperialism’s “war on terror,” and U.S. hands off Cuba and Venezuela.

Some immigrant rights groups call boycott on May Day

BY NED MEASEL

WASHINGTON—Representatives of several immigrant rights and other organizations held a press conference here March 15 to announce a national call for demonstrations and an economic boycott on May 1 to demand, “Stop the raids and deportations!” and “Legalization for all immigrants now!”

A statement released by the National May 1 Movement for Worker and Immigrant Rights called for a response to recent immigration police raids against foreign-born workers and pointed to the impact of last year’s mass demonstrations, which were sparked by the Sensenbrenner bill (HR 4437), a measure that would have criminalized undocumented immigrants by making it a felony to live in the United States without proper papers.

It read, “We believe that, like HR 4437 was halted as a result of these demonstrations, only a powerful movement in the streets that financially threatens the powers that be will halt this latest terror against our communities. And we will not stop until we receive full legalization for the 12 million undocumented living in the U.S.”

Speakers at the press conference included representatives of the Los Angeles-based March 25 Coalition, the Centro Sin Fronteras in Chicago, and the International Action Center. Other groups, including Latino Movement USA, have called an immigrant rights rally in Los Angeles for April 7.

Colorado to use prison labor on farms

BY EDDIE BECK

Colorado officials recently announced they are launching a pilot program to use prison labor on farms in the state to make up for a shortage of immigrant workers.

Colorado’s Inmate Farmer Labor Program will allow agribusiness and other capitalist farmers to contract prison labor. The inmates will get paid the state’s standard prison wage of about 60 cents per day.

The labor shortage, state officials say, was created after the passage last summer of state legislation that increased sanctions on employers hiring undocumented immigrants, imposed more stringent documentation requirements, reduced access to services for immigrants, and called for more aggressive police enforcement of the regulations.

“This created a climate of fear and confusion among immigrants,” Julien Ross of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition told the *Militant*, prompting

“thousands” to leave the state.

“Up until last summer, some 100 to 300 migrant laborers would work here,” Frank Sobolik said in an interview. He is the head of the cooperative extension office at Colorado State University, which grows vegetables on 3,000 acres. “After the summer, you couldn’t find 50.”

Under the Inmate Farmer Labor Program, agribusinesses and other farms would contract with Colorado Correctional Industries at an hourly cost of \$9.65 per worker. That would cover wages, transportation, and security.

Inmates, however, will get 63 cents per day, Alison Morgan, a spokesperson for the Colorado Department of Corrections, told the *Militant*. “And they’re eligible for production bonuses of \$40 or \$50 per month,” she added.

Morgan said the first inmate work crew is due out in mid-May.

The state of Iowa is now considering a similar program, according to the *New York Times*.

Shipbuilding workers from India fight firings in Mississippi

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi—Some 280 contract workers from India are in a battle here against Signal International, a shipbuilding company. Six of these workers were fired March 8 and detained by the company after they began to protest company abuses.

Some 200 Indian workers stopped work for seven hours that day forcing the company to release the fired workers and slowing down Signal International's attempt to immediately put the fired workers on planes back to India.

According to Sabulal Vijayan, one of the fired workers, the company's

agents in India recruited them with promises of visas that would lead to permanent residency in the United States and steady work at the Signal shipyard. Each of the workers paid from \$15,000 to \$20,000 to come to the United States.

"We were lied to," Vijayan said at a meeting of 40 Indian workers here

several days after the firings. "The company has no plans to help the workers get permanent residency as we were promised. Some workers are being paid less than was agreed to. And we are forced to live in an isolated camp with 20 workers to a trailer and poor food. We pay \$35 every day for these inhuman conditions." Vijayan described working in India and in parts of the Middle East, "but I have never lived in as horrible conditions as what Signal has provided us."

The company is located a quarter mile down the road from Northrop Grumman where some 8,000 unionists are on strike for better pay and working conditions.

—Paul Mailhot

Greece: cops attack protest against school privatization

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS AND GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece, March 16—Nearly 10,000 students, university professors, teachers, and other trade unionists marched on the Greek Parliament here today. The action followed a March 12 concert and rally of several thousand.

Demonstrators carried banners demanding, "Free public education for all!" Currently, 247 university departments are under student occupation out of 450 nationwide.

This is the third month of weekly marches and occupations by university students and professors aimed at blocking government reforms that would allow the establishment of private non-profit universities, as well as restrict the right to asylum within university

compounds. These measures are tied to a proposed revision of the Greek constitution, which states that only the state can be responsible for higher education.

The bill was approved March 8 by the deputies of New Democracy, the main conservative party that holds a majority in parliament. During a protest march on that day, police attacked the demonstrators. Riot cops used tear gas and then charged against the protesters. More than 60 people were arrested. The police used as a pretext an arson attack by a handful of masked individuals on the monument to the Unknown Soldier.

Protesting the cop violence, the lead banner in the March 16 protest read, "Arrests, tear gas don't terrorize us; the justice of our struggle is the only



Cops drag a protester by the leg during February 22 demonstration in Athens against moves to set up private universities.

law!" Security this time was organized by delegations of teachers unions from elementary and secondary schools, the university professors association, other trade unions, and student associations involved in the struggle. The march was carried out without police violence or arrests.

Athens event launches new Greek-language title Pamphlet describes fraud of education reform under capitalism

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece—Twenty people attended a wine-and-cheese reception here March 11 to celebrate the publication of the newly issued Greek-language translation of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes. The booklet in Greek was published by Diethnes Vima. The original English-language pamphlet is published by New York-based Pathfinder Press.

Bobbis Misailides, an airport worker and one of the editors of the Greek-language edition, presented the book

to the audience. "The current wave of protests and occupations by university students and professors has brought the issue of the crisis in education to the fore and made people more receptive to a discussion on it," Misailides said (see article above).

"I want to stress that under capitalism, no education reform worthy of its name is possible for working people," he continued. "Why? Because, as the book explains, the goal of the bosses is not to educate the broadest layers of the working masses, but quite the opposite, to teach us obedience and acceptance of their class rule. This is central to understanding what capitalism is. So, in a way it was a coincidence, but a fortunate one, that Diethnes Vima's newest title came out in the middle of

the current struggle."

A lively discussion followed the presentation. Four students from the Athens Medical School took the floor several times. In addition six teachers participated as well as five workers from the Athens airport.

A total of six copies of the book were purchased at the reception, as well as four other titles on revolutionary working-class politics.

The next day, volunteers sold nine books, including two copies of the new title, from a literature table at a 3,000-strong rally and concert in support of the striking teachers and students.

After a round of bookstore visits in Athens, Thessaloniki, Katerini, and Larissa, some 15 bookstores ordered a total of 69 copies of the new title.

—Brian Williams

United Auto Workers seeks to organize Kentucky Toyota plant

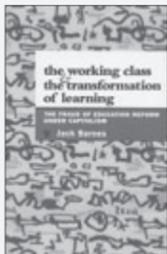
The United Auto Workers (UAW) is seeking to organize the Toyota assembly plant in Georgetown, Kentucky. According to the union web site, UAW president Ron Gettelfinger and Terry Thurman, the UAW's head of organizing, said there has been "increased activity" in unionizing workers at the plant, reported the March 13 *Detroit News*. "Recent media leaks about workers pay there," the paper states, "indicate Toyota is considering cutting some wages in order to lower overall expenses."

—Brian Williams

Now available in Greek

The Working Class & the Transformation of Learning
the fraud of education reform under capitalism

"Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity."



—Jack Barnes

Available in English, Farsi, French, Icelandic, Spanish, Swedish, and now Greek. \$3

Contact distributors listed on p. 8 or

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 9, 1982

After more than two years of silence, the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals has turned down Héctor Marroquín's request for political asylum in the United States.

Marroquín, a twenty-eight-year-old native of Mexico, is a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and of the National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The immigration board ruling comes on the heels of the introduction in Congress—with administration backing—of new anti-immigrant legislation and the relaunching of factory raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.



April 8, 1957

In the face of a vile witch-hunt campaign by the "Anti-Subversive" committee of the Chicago American Legion, over 600 students at the University of Chicago turned out for a campus symposium on "Socialism and Democracy." After an unsuccessful attempt to force University officials to cancel the meeting, the Legionnaires devoted themselves to passing out leaflets "exposing" Karl Marx as "anti-Semitic" and urging students to join them in a great crusade against "anti-democratic" communism. The "crusade" opened with the planting of stench bombs in the meeting hall which were discovered before the symposium began.



April 9, 1932

The insurgent strike of the anthracite coal miners of Districts number 1 and 9 has collapsed. The men who came out are again back at work, with no gains made, browbeaten into submission by the unholy trinity of the coal operators, the U.M.W. officials and the Pennsylvania state police. The strike brought out all the deep seated discontent coupled with the sterling spirit of rebellion which is saturating the mine fields. The leaders of this strike were not at all conscious Left wingers, not to speak of being revolutionist. But they found themselves in conflict with the degenerated, corrupt union bureaucrats, and pressed forward by a membership chafing under growing exploitation.

Montreal book event

Continued from front page

directly from a street protest marking the fourth anniversary of the imperialist invasion of Iraq.

Michel Prairie welcomed the crowd on behalf of Pathfinder Books and introduced Sean O'Donahue, who spoke briefly about the work of the Table de concertation—the “Round Table” coalition of 13 groups that promote solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.

Yvonne Lo, the organizer of the Chinese Team from Radio Centre-Ville, then welcomed everyone in both Mandarin and Cantonese, and explained to the predominantly French-speaking audience that the meeting was being translated into Cantonese as well as English and French.

Janet Lumb, director of the cultural group Festival Accès Asie and the meeting's moderator, opened the event with an all-too-short riff on her alto saxophone and stressed that she was “pleased to be participating in a gathering with so many people who fight for justice—thanks to a convergence of groups that don't usually work together.”

Lumb noted that the three generals interviewed in *Our History Is Still Being Written*—Moisés Sío Wong, Gustavo Chui, and Armando Choy—are among those “who have helped bring about big changes in the world and are still alive and fighting.”

She extended a special welcome to Oscar Coet, the Cuban consul in Montreal, and invited him to say a few words. Coet expressed his appreciation for the book and the meeting, noting that “Chinese immigrants, like Blacks, have made enormous contributions to Cuban culture.”

Yvonne Lo said she had at first been reluctant to speak at the meeting, but in reading the section of the book on the “Chinese in Cuba,” she recognized that their history was in many ways similar to that of Chinese immigrants in Canada. Lo said she was impressed by the actions of the three generals as youth when they first “participated in the student movement and then the revolution.”

Sam Noumoff, former director of the Centre for Developing Area Studies at McGill University, congratulated Pathfinder Press for “its sound political judgment and tremendous contribution in publishing this book.” Noumoff talked about the developing trade and cultural relations between Cuba and China and noted some of the other material now being published on Chinese indentured labor in Cuba.

Armand Vaillancourt, a well-known Quebec sculptor who had brought some of his banners to help decorate the hall, paid homage to the “Cuban people who are a very powerful force in the world today.” He also donated several copies of his book *Armand Vaillancourt: Mass Sculpture*, proceeds from the sale of which helped cover the meeting's expenses.

Mary-Alice Waters, the editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and the president of Pathfinder Press, began her remarks by extending “personal greetings from all three generals, and especially from Armando Choy who had expected to be here with us tonight.” Choy's responsibilities for the port of Havana had prevented him at the last moment from coming, Waters explained.

The Cuban Revolution in which Chui, Choy, and Sío Wong all fought in as youth, Waters noted, was part of the great wave of national liberation struggles that swept Asia, Africa, and the Americas in the years during and after World War II.

“The workers, farmers, and young people who brought down the Batista dictatorship in Cuba in 1959 did not start out to make a socialist revolution,” Waters said.

“They just wanted a society with greater social equality. They fought for a land reform, to eradicate illiteracy, to uproot institutionalized racist discrimination, to provide employment for all, including women. And when their course clashed with the economic interests of U.S. imperialism they simply refused to back down. That is how the first socialist revolution in our hemisphere was born. And in the process of transforming Cuban society, they transformed themselves.”

Waters described the broad interest that *Our History Is Still Being Written* has generated. “Most people are surprised to learn of the scope of Chinese immigration to Cuba, and its weight in Cuban history. And they want to learn how the Cuban people have advanced the fight against racism,” she noted.

“As Moisés Sío Wong puts it so forcefully,” Waters said, “the greatest measure taken against discrimination ‘was the revolution itself.’ The Chinese community in Cuba is different from Peru, Brazil, Argentina, or Canada, he emphasized. And that difference is the triumph of a socialist revolution.”

Following a lively discussion period, participants stayed to talk with the pan-

Event is held at Chicago campus to discuss struggles by Asians in the Americas



CHICAGO—Sixty people, mostly students, heard a panel of speakers March 22 at the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) on the “History and Contemporary Reality of Asian Communities in Latin America.” Martín Koppel (above, second from left) spoke about *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder. The uprooting of racist discrimination and exploitation in Cuba today, said Koppel, one of the book's interviewers, “is the result of Cuba's socialist revolution.” Nobuko Adachi (above, right), a professor at Illinois State University and editor of *Japanese Diasporas: Unsung Pasts, Conflicting Presents, and Uncertain Futures*, spoke about the substantial Japanese immigration to Brazil, from the brutal conditions Japanese workers faced on coffee plantations in the early 1900s to the ongoing struggles against discrimination.

Julie Kim (above, second from right), a Korean-born professor at Diego Portales University in Santiago, Chile, spoke about Korean immigration to the Americas. She highlighted how thousands migrated from Korea to escape poverty in the late 1800s, and then because of imperialist Japan's occupation of the country in the 20th century. UIC professor Bruce Calder (above, left), who moderated, gave an overview of Asians in Latin America. He recommended *Our History Is Still Being Written*, and noted that Cuba's selfless defense of Angola against the South African apartheid regime was important to learn about. The event's sponsors were the UIC Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, History Department, Latino Cultural Center, and Latin American and Latino Studies Program.

—ERNEST MAILHOT

elists and look at the displays of photos and reviews, a number of which had been translated into French for the first time. Many signed a petition circulated by the Table de concertation demanding the release of five Cuban internationalists incarcerated in U.S. jails for their work in defense of Cuba.

Walter Tom told the *Militant* he came because he is “interested in immigration and involved in social justice issues.”

Simon Léveillé, a civil engineering student at the University of Montreal,

said he came “to learn how the three generals became active in international politics.”

Participants bought more than 20 books from the Pathfinder table. In addition to nine copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written*, other titles included *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, and *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 7—the French-language edition of the magazine *New International*, featuring in this issue “Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun” by Jack Barnes.

N.Y. law allows sex offenders to be held indefinitely

BY EMILY ROSE

NEW YORK—Gov. Eliot Spitzer signed a law March 14 allowing state authorities to keep some people locked up indefinitely after they complete prison sentences for sex crimes. The law also allows longer parole for those who served out sentences on such charges and mandates the creation of an Office of Sex Offender Management. New York is the 20th state to pass such “civil confinement” legislation.

The law will “keep the most dangerous sexual predators off our streets,” Spitzer said. It will “protect our children,” said State Senator Joseph Bruno.

Under this legislation, mental health “experts” will screen all those who finish their sentences and issue a prediction of whether they are “likely” to commit a future sex crime. A jury then determines whether they pose such a risk, and a judge decides whether to detain them or put them under parole supervision. “Behavioral” treatment is mandatory both for those reincarcerated and those released.

Various devices are used “to determine if people continue to offend once conditionally released or have deviant thoughts” before being freed, the *New York Times* reported in a March 6 article,

part of a three-part series. These include the polygraph, “to make sure an offender has admitted all his crimes,” and “the penile plethysmograph, which measures changes in the circumference of the penis while the offender is shown sexually suggestive pictures of men, women, or children,” the article said.

The new law builds on previous reactionary legislation. The Sex Offender Registration Act, better known as Megan's Law—also a federal law—requires public notification when a person who served time for a sex offense moves into a neighborhood. The names, addresses, and photos of 24,000 people in New York State appear on this public registry. Another measure, dubbed Jessica's Law, requires some individuals to wear Global Positioning System tracking devices for 5 to 10 years. “The law faces a likely constitutional challenge,” the Associated Press reported March 23. The U.S. Supreme Court, however, has upheld “civil commitment” laws on the basis that their goal is to offer treatment, not to punish someone twice for the same crime.

Spitzer suggested that New York's law would become a “national model” for confining the “most violent predators.” President George Bush has signed

a law offering money to states that keep past sex offenders locked up beyond their prison terms.

In 1990 Washington became the first state to pass a “civil confinement” law. Since then, nearly 3,000 people have been locked up in detention centers for former sex offenders.

Most of these centers are basically prisons, with barred doors, guard stations, overcrowded conditions, and razor wire fences. Inmates average less than 10 hours a week in “treatment.”

Those detained often refuse therapy because admission of misdeeds at those sessions may prolong their incarceration or lead to new charges.

Criteria for who is to be detained as a future sex offender are arbitrary. Prosecutors have sought to detain some convicted of noncontact crimes like public exposure. “In Florida, prosecutors tried unsuccessfully to civilly commit a man who was imprisoned for driving drunk even though his last sex arrest was decades earlier,” the *Times* reported.

A growing bevy of private companies and specialists have gone into the lucrative “sex offender” detention business. Among these are Liberty Behavioral

Continued on page 7

Our History Is Still Being Written
THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION
\$20
www.pathfinderpress.com

Can 'card check' help reverse U.S. unions' decline?

BY DOUG NELSON

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act by the House of Representatives March 1 has been touted by the labor officialdom and middle-class radical groups as the salvation of the trade union movement, whose membership continues to decline.

The bill would amend the National Labor Relations Act to require the National Labor Relations Board to certify a

convinced, through its involvement in the struggle, of the need to organize.

This is not an onerous condition but rather a necessary approach in order to take on the bosses, not only for winning union recognition but for succeeding in the subsequent struggles for a contract and to enforce contract provisions on the job.

The union officialdom has lobbied for the card-check bill to pretend it is doing something to organize the unorganized, to cover up the fact it is not doing such a thing.

Union membership in the United States fell by another half a percentage point last year to 12 percent of the labor force. This is part of a long-term trend. The percentage of organized workers in this country has steadily declined since its high point of 25.5 percent in 1953.

Real wages have been on an overall downward curve for the last three decades, often without much resistance organized by the union officialdom. In recent years, for example, the top officials of unions in the airlines and auto industries have accepted bosses' demands for concessions to "save our company"—with disastrous results for workers.

The decline of the labor movement has made it easier for the bosses and their political representatives in Washington—Democrats and Republicans—to erode wages, medical coverage, social security, and trade union rights.

1930s labor radicalization

To understand what labor confronts today, a brief look at its rise in the 1930s is useful.

In 1934, despite the weakness of small craft-oriented unions and other adverse conditions at the time, three giant, militant working-class battles erupted: among trucking-industry workers in Minneapolis, auto workers in Toledo, and longshoremen in San Francisco. In Minneapolis especially, a class-struggle leadership was forged in battle from the ranks of labor, who were becoming radicalized and combative under the pressure of a severe capitalist crisis. These struggles began a historic turning point

UNION TALK

union without an election if a majority in a workplace sign cards saying they want to be represented by that union.

The House vote "marks a momentous turning point," AFL-CIO president John Sweeney said March 1. "In the past few decades, labor law has been so twisted by corporations and their union-busting hired guns that it is now virtually impossible to form a union against an employer's wishes."

An article in the March issue of *Political Affairs*, a magazine reflecting the views of the Communist Party USA, said, "Passage of this potentially landmark bill has been organized labor's first priority."

If the bill becomes law, however, it won't reverse the deepening crisis of the unions. The weakening of the labor movement, including the membership decline and setbacks in organizing drives, is above all a product of the officialdom's decades-long course of subordinating the interests of labor to those of the bosses.

With class-struggle leadership, workers can and do mobilize to win union representation elections and to counter employer efforts to victimize union supporters.

For a secret-ballot vote

In fact, secret-ballot representation elections at a workplace—not card checks—are the most effective way for workers to express what they want regarding unionization. Winning such a vote in face of company intimidation efforts means the rank-and-file has become



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Meat packers from Dakota Premium Foods march in St. Paul, Minnesota, June 12, 2000, to press their fight for union recognition after waging a sit-down strike earlier that month.

for labor, as union memberships began to swell and masses of workers gained confidence as they wrested concessions from the bosses.

It was under the impact of these and other struggles that in 1935 the Congress of Industrial Organizations was formed and the government passed the Social Security Act and the National Labor Relations Act.

The class-collaborationist leadership of the social democrats and the Stalinist Communist Party, which dominated the labor movement, crippled and eventually broke the combat momentum of the insurgent masses. These misleaders managed to tie the new industrial union movement to the Democratic Party, beginning with the 1936 elections.

The unions were gradually brought under the domination of an officialdom ready to act in "partnership" with the employing class. Reliance on help from the Roosevelt administration was substituted for use of the unions' full power.

The rank-and-file democracy established during the upsurge was undermined. As the Roosevelt government lined up the labor bureaucracy in support of war preparations, the boss class launched a witch-hunt against militants who resisted its foreign policy. This course prevailed throughout the Cold War period.

By the late 1970s, with the exhaustion of the postwar boom, the bosses escalated their offensive against the unions and the working class. Labor returned to the center stage of U.S. politics as working people put up resistance. But the labor officialdom's course of class collaboration had become so entrenched that this did not reverse the overall decline of the trade unions.

Politicization of working class

Recent examples of renewed working-class resistance and the politicization of the working class, however, point the way forward.

One important example today is the working-class struggle for the legalization of undocumented immigrants and against deportations. This was evident in last year's mass immigrant rights actions, including the first political general strike in U.S. history on May 1.

Campaigning for the demand by millions to stop the raids, deportations, and for immediate unconditional legalization of undocumented immigrants should be the priority of the union movement, not lobbying Congress for a "card check" bill.

Furthermore, experiences over the last decade show that even under today's adverse conditions workers can win union

representation elections.

One illustration of this point was when workers at the Dakota Premium Foods slaughterhouse in South St. Paul, Minnesota, launched a union-organizing fight in June 2000 after holding a sit-down strike. They won the vote to be represented by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 789 in July 2000 and a union contract in 2002.

Another example was that of workers at the Co-Op coal mine in Huntington, Utah, who launched a 10-month strike in September 2003 after they were all locked out for walking out to protest company harassment and a firing of union supporters there. The miners repeatedly defeated the company's attempts to crush their fight, including a defamation lawsuit by the bosses against 16 miners involved in the union-organizing struggle and many of their supporters, as well as papers that reported on their struggle—including the *Militant*. These workers reached out for solidarity and won support in the West and beyond.

While the company never broke their morale, in the end most of the workers, in their majority Mexican immigrants, were fired on the basis that they lacked adequate documentation—one week prior to a union representation election, which they were poised to win. This underscores why it's vital for the union movement to fight for legalization of all immigrant workers.

'Workers take ownership of struggle'

At a May 27, 2006, public meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bernie Hesse, UFCW Local 789 legislative director at the time, noted that the Co-Op struggle, like the one at Dakota Premium Foods, was defined first and foremost by the fact that "the workers took ownership of their struggle" from the outset.

That's at the heart of what's needed for the revitalization of the labor movement today, showing how workers can develop the leadership they deserve.

Sex offenders

Continued from page 6
Health and Liberty Healthcare Corporation, which as of last year had picked up annual contracts worth up to \$26 million.

A March 5 *New York Times* article reported on nightmarish conditions in the Liberty-run center in Arcadia, Florida: crumbling facilities, arbitrary punishment for minor infractions, and sex between staff members and inmates. In February 2005, when detainees protested, hundreds of cops in riot gear were sent in to "restore order."

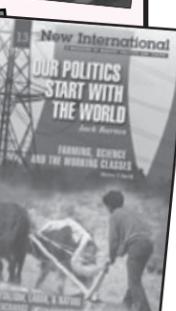
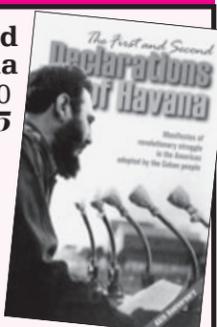
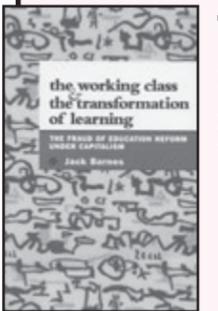
On Special
with any 'Militant' subscription
between March 31 and May 27, 2007

**The First and Second
Declarations of Havana**
Regular price \$10
Special offer \$5

**Cuba and the Coming
American Revolution**
by Jack Barnes
Regular price \$13
Special offer \$5

**The Working Class and
the Transformation of
Learning**
by Jack Barnes
Regular price \$3
Special offer \$1

**'New International'
nos. 12 and 13**
Regular price \$30 for both
Special offer \$25 for both



contact distributors listed on page 8 or visit
www.pathfinderpress.com

Panama: workers were target of 1989 U.S. invasion

Below is an excerpt from *Panama: The Truth about the U.S. Invasion*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for April. On the night of Dec. 20, 1989, some 26,000 U.S. troops invaded Panama, overthrowing the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega. This pamphlet tells the truth about the fight by Panamanian working people to defend their sovereignty. Copyright © 1990 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY CINDY JAQUITH

"General Thurman, with the way things are going, don't you think it's optimistic to say U.S. troops will be out of Panama in one month?"—*Ted Koppel, ABC Nightline.*

"Well, you'll recall when we went into Detroit. We said it would be for ten days and then it took us a while. . . ."—*Gen. Maxwell Thurman, Head of U.S. Southern Command, Panama, December 22, 1989.*

Three days into the U.S. invasion of Panama—Washington's biggest military operation since the Vietnam War—Gen. Maxwell Thurman could think only of Detroit, where 4,700 U.S. paratroopers and 8,000 National Guardsmen invaded



Panamanians confront U.S. tank during 1989 invasion by some 26,000 U.S. troops. Resistance was organized by Panama's working people in the Dignity Battalions.

in 1967 to crush a rebellion by Blacks against police brutality.

The U.S. Army's occupation of Detroit left 43 Blacks dead, 2,000 wounded, 5,000 arrested, and 5,000 homeless.

The invasion of Panama by 26,000 U.S. troops has taken thousands of Panamanian lives and left thousands more homeless and wounded. Body bags of U.S. GIs have arrived in the United States, along with hundreds of wounded U.S. troops.

Washington says it has occupied this country of only 2.3 million people to "restore democracy." But the bombing of working-class neighborhoods in Panama City, the refusal to permit Red Cross workers to evacuate the wounded, and the rounding up of thousands of Panamanian youth reveal the real target of this operation.

The invading troops have met resistance from the Dignity Battalions. These are armed civilian units of Panamanian workers and peasants, many of them Black. The battalions have been branded "terrorists," "thugs," and "looters" by the likes of General Thurman. Cuban President Fidel Castro has praised them as "heroes of Our America who are fighting for the

dignity, honor, and sovereignty of our peoples."

Who are the men and women of the Dignity Battalions and why are they standing up to the most powerful military force on earth?

The battle of the Panamanian people for freedom from U.S. tyranny stretches back to the beginning of this century. In 1903 the United States intervened in Panama to gain for itself rights to build the Panama Canal. A treaty was drawn up giving the U.S. government rights to the canal "in perpetuity," including the right to administer the over-500-square-mile Canal Zone, to run the Panama Canal Co., and to use U.S. soldiers to main-

tain "order" in other parts of Panama. Washington didn't even bother to ask the Panamanian government, which it had just installed, to sign the document.

Tens of thousands of workers from the Caribbean, most of them Black and English-speaking, migrated to Panama to work on the canal. Thousands died from the slavlike working conditions or from disease. Of those who survived, many stayed in the Canal Zone working for the U.S. Army or private U.S. companies once the canal was completed.

The decades following completion of the canal were marked by repeated struggles of Panamanians against U.S. domination of their economy and government and for an end to the occupation of the Canal Zone. Intertwined with the fight for Panamanian sovereignty was the struggle against the racist policies of the U.S. government. In the Canal Zone, which was subject to U.S. law, Washington had set up the same kind of Jim Crow system that existed at that time in the U.S. South. . . .

The struggle against this discriminatory system was waged partly through the trade unions that grew up among canal workers. Many of the labor leaders who fought to end segregation were expelled from the zone. . . .

The legal segregationist system in the zone began to fall apart, however, in the 1950s. With the first victories in the U.S. civil rights movement against "separate but equal" facilities, certain U.S. policies in the Canal Zone were no longer constitutional.

Atlanta Militant Labor Forum hall

Continued from page 3

the group's activities. These range from confronting challenges facing Guatemalan workers, to participating in actions demanding legalization of all immigrants—from last year's May Day strike to other mobilizations.

Noting the breadth of participation in the meeting, García pointed to the "welcome" sign at the forum

in a number of languages, including Mam—the Mayan dialect spoken by these workers from Guatemala, for whom Spanish is a second language.

The next morning about 25 people came back to the new hall for breakfast and a class on *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, recently published by Pathfinder Press.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant, New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: swp@bham.rr.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Diego:** Tel: (619) 302-1237. E-mail: sdyoungsocialists@gmail.com **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381395. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net **Tampa:** Tel: (813) 774-1059. E-mail: youngsocialists813@gmail.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 1146 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW. Zip: 30310. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 758-2151. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwest.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 40 Davenport

St. Apt. 616. Zip: 48201. Tel: (248) 860-9341. E-mail: youngsocialistsdetroit@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: Albany: Tel: (518) 929-4786. E-mail: Young Socialists518@gmail.com **Manhattan:** 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing

address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kb-reykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauack@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: clondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

April BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

Panama: The Truth about the U.S. Invasion
by Cindy Jaquith, Don Rojas, Nils Castro, Fidel Castro
"Panama's only sin is refusing to go down on it knees," said Panamanian leader Nils Castro at the Third Assembly of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. \$6. **Special price: \$5**

History of the Russian Revolution
by Leon Trotsky
The first socialist revolution as told by one of its central leaders. \$36. **Special price: \$27**

Che Guevara and the Imperialist Reality
by Mary-Alice Waters
The world of capitalist disorder would not be strange to Che, Waters explains. "Far from being dismayed by the odds we face, he would have examined the world with scientific precision and charted a course to win." \$6. **Special price: \$5**

The Long View of History
by George Novack
\$7. **Special price: \$5**

Fighting Racism in World War II
by C.L.R. James, Edgar Keemer
\$22. **Special price: \$17**

Art and Revolution
by Leon Trotsky
\$21. **Special price: \$16**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

25% DISCOUNT

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL APRIL 30, 2007

Lift all sanctions against Iran!

The new tightening of sanctions against Iran by the United Nations Security Council is an attack on that nation's sovereignty. It lays the groundwork for further imperialist aggression, as shown by the dispute over the 15 British marines the Iranian Navy captured.

Washington and its allies demand the Iranian government stop its uranium enrichment program, arguing it will be used to produce nuclear weapons. Tehran says it is developing atomic power for peaceful uses: to meet the country's energy needs.

Iran is a semicolonial nation. It confronts a long history of domination by London, Washington, and other imperialist powers, which have plundered its resources and stunted its development. Iranian workers and peasants have waged struggles to free themselves from that yoke, a high point of which was the 1979 revolution, which toppled the U.S.-backed shah and set back imperialist interests in the Mideast.

In today's world, a huge gap exists in conditions of life between the imperialist and the semicolonial world. One-third of humanity has no access to electricity. Iran, though a major oil producer, lacks refining capacity and imports 43 percent of its gasoline—a consequence of the imperialist legacy. It has a right to develop nuclear energy as a way to expand electrification, essential for modern industrial and agricultural development.

Working people everywhere have a vital stake in defending Iran's right to develop nuclear energy and opposing attacks on it.

The objectives of the U.S. rulers in Iran are to bring about, through military and economic pressure, a government beholden to them and greater domination over the Mideast and its resources. They cannot openly proclaim these goals, however. Instead, they pose as

champions of world peace. But this is a lie. Washington is the world's number one nuclear power and warmonger. It is the only government that has ever unleashed atomic weapons.

What we see unfolding today, as U.S. officials themselves have explained, is a decades-long war by Washington and other capitalist powers, not only in Iraq but on multiple fronts, from Afghanistan to Somalia and the Philippines. That is the only way for the ruling classes in Washington, London, Paris, Tokyo, and elsewhere—in deadly competition among themselves—to shift the relationship of forces in their favor and restore their historically sagging profit rates. Those most affected are workers and farmers around the world.

The imperialist wars abroad have their counterpart in the U.S. employers' onslaught against working people at home: from the factory raids and deportations of immigrant workers to stepped-up police spying and harassment in the name of "homeland security."

In their anti-Iran offensive, the U.S. rulers are more united than in their war in Iraq. While no prominent ruling-class voices offer a real alternative to the Bush administration's course in Iraq, the capitalists have tactical disagreements over how to conduct that war. Regarding Iran, however, Democrats often criticize the White House from a more aggressive position, arguing that the Bush administration is not doing enough to force Tehran to its knees.

In face of such brutal wars, and more to come, by the twin parties of U.S. imperialism, working people and youth should demand: Lift the sanctions against Iran! Bring all the troops home now from Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, and every other country! Not one penny, not one man or woman, for the U.S. war machine!

House OKs funds for Iraq, Afghan wars

Continued from front page

the bill has "no chance of becoming law." Bush indicated he would veto the bill in its current form, and accused the Democrats of playing "political theater."

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed a similar bill March 22. That measure would set a nonbinding "goal" of March 31, 2008, for withdrawing U.S. forces from combat. Like the House version, it would leave an unspecified number of U.S. troops to "train Iraqi security forces" and conduct "antiterrorist" operations.

Bush accused Democrats of putting the troops in jeopardy. Republican House Leader John Boehner, from Ohio, called the bill, "the most dangerous dereliction of congressional duty in history."

At a press conference following the vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said the bill's approval marked a "historic day," showing the new leadership of Congress is taking "one great giant step" to "bring an end to the war in Iraq."

The bill received the tacit support of the 75-member "Out of Iraq Caucus" of liberal Democrats who had said the bill did not go far enough to end the war. "While I cannot betray my conscience, I cannot stand

in the way of passing a measure that puts a concrete end date on this unnecessary war," said Barbara Lee, a Democratic congresswoman from California. Fourteen Democrats voted against the bill.

The bill sets "readiness" requirements for troops being deployed to Iraq and limits deployment of U.S. Army units to 365 days and of Marines to 210 days. The requirements can be waved for "reasons of national security."

The bill makes clear these limitations "shall not be construed to require force levels in Iraq to be decreased below the total . . . prior to January 10, 2007." That's when Bush announced the deployment of 21,500 troops to Iraq—later increased to nearly 28,000—in addition to the 130,000 already there.

Meanwhile, during a visit to Ramadi, capital of Anbar, a largely Sunni province where al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia has a strong base of operations, the U.S. military's top commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, said U.S. and Iraqi government forces are making modest progress in their fight to defeat al-Qaeda and other "terrorists" in Iraq. "We are attriting them at a fearsome rate," Petraeus said.

LETTERS

Workers behind bars

I think it was Lenin who pointed out that "foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy." This was driven home to me by recent de-

velopments among workers behind bars. According to a friend now imprisoned in Washington State, guards now harass prisoners by saying things like, "We are hiring new guards who had their training at Abu Ghraib, so watch your step."

This comes after word through sort of a "prison Samizdat" of a censored news article that revealed how fascist outfits were recruiting among guards in northwestern prisons. It seems that the most dishonorable profession on earth is about to get worse.

E.M.

New Jersey

'Wind that Shakes the Barley'

Could you comment on Ken Loach's new film, *The Wind that*

Shakes the Barley? I found its demonstration of the necessity for the socialist transformation of a nationalist, revolutionary movement to be impressive.

Not being an expert on the history of the period, I wonder if the filmmakers have portrayed the political situation of that time accurately.

Jack Angstreich

New York, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Iran sanctions

Continued from front page

sanctions if Tehran did not accede to its demand to cease uranium enrichment.

Washington, with the world's largest nuclear arms stockpile, has led the charge for punitive action against Iran, asserting that the uranium enrichment is aimed at building nuclear arms. Tehran insists its nuclear program is designed for the peaceful purpose of developing the country's economy and infrastructure.

"I can assure you that pressure and intimidation will not change Iranian policy," Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, told the Security Council after the March 24 vote. "Suspension is neither an option nor a solution."

U.S. undersecretary of state Nicholas Burns hailed the arms embargo contained in the new sanctions. He said it bans the export of Iranian weapons to Lebanon's Hezbollah, the Palestinian group Hamas, the Syrian government, or "to any state or terrorist organization."

In a further blow against Iran, Moscow has backed out of its commitment to complete Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant, which was to open this year. Initially Moscow claimed the reason was unpaid bills by Tehran. Subsequently, however, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Iranian officials "have to comply with international law. They have to obey the resolution of the Security Council" to suspend enrichment. On March 20, Moscow confirmed it had withdrawn 2,000 workers and technicians from Bushehr. As a member of the UN Security Council, Moscow voted for the December 23 and the March 24 sanctions against Iran.

On March 23, the day before the Security Council imposed its new sanctions, Iranian armed forces detained 15 British navy personnel in the Shatt al-Arab waterway, near the southern border between Iraq and Iran. There is an unresolved territorial dispute between the two states over that area.

According to Tehran, the British troops had illegally entered Iranian waters. London countered that its marines—who had just searched a merchant ship in the waterway—were in Iraqi waters when confronted.

British prime minister Tony Blair said Tehran "should not be under any doubt at all about how seriously we regard this act, which was unjustified and wrong."

The British big-business press started clamoring for swifter action against Iran. "Their kidnapping is an outrage," said an editorial in the March 27 *London Times*, referring to the 15 British troops now held in Iran. "In earlier times it would have been an immediate casus belli. It would fully justify the use of force to obtain their release." It condemned "the pusillanimous timidity of British officials and politicians, who have failed disgracefully to confront Iran with the ultimatum this flagrant aggression demands."

On March 28 the British foreign ministry announced that London has frozen all official contacts with Tehran until its 15 soldiers are returned.

The day before, the U.S. Navy began a major military exercise in the Gulf, bringing together two strike groups of warships, more than 100 warplanes, and 10,000 troops. It is the biggest show of force in the Gulf since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Russian miners

Continued from front page

to 70 percent of their pay. "It's the old song: work harder and harder and harder. The more coal you get, the bigger your salary," a retired miner identified only as Nikolai, whose son died at Ulyanovskaya, told Reuters.

Deaths of miners in Russia have been on the rise in recent years. In 2005, 23 were killed by a gas explosion in the Kemerovo region. The year before two separate mine blasts in the area killed 60 miners. In 2006, 84 miners were killed in 21 mine accidents across Russia, which is the world's sixth largest coal producer.

The day after the recent mine blast, a fire at a nursing home for the elderly and disabled in southern Russia killed 62 people. "Many of the dead were confined to their beds and unable to flee the smoke and flames," the *New York Times* reported. "The alarm system was incomplete," Sergei Salov, a senior emergency official, said on Russian TV. "The personnel did not have equipment to protect against smoke. The bedrooms' wooden panels were not made flame-resistant."

In 2006, 17,065 people died in fires in Russia, an average of nearly 47 a day, according to the *Times*.

CORRECTIONS

The picture that appeared in the photobox "Young Socialists join rallies, demand: 'Not one penny, or person, for Washington's wars!'" in the April 2 issue should have been credited to Ben Joyce, not Eddie Beck. The print edition of that week also mistakenly listed the issue number on the front page as 12, instead of 13.