

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

International conference in Havana demands freedom for Cuban Five

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 19

MAY 14, 2007

‘Stop raids and deportations! Legalize undocumented now!’

More than 300,000 march across U.S. on May Day

150,000 in Chicago

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

CHICAGO, May 1—A thunderous roar bounced off the downtown skyscrapers here today as more than 150,000 people marched to demand legalization of undocumented immigrants and an end to raids and deportations.

A raid by heavily armed federal immigration agents of the predominantly Latino neighborhood *La Villita* (Little Village) on April 25 sparked outrage among working people in the area, who turned out for the May Day mobilization in numbers much higher than expected.

The march here was the largest of simi-

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L.A. cops attack rally

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES, May 1—Some 30,000 people, mostly workers, marched downtown here during the day to demand legalization of all immigrants. The rally was called by the March 25 Coalition.

About 5,000 also rallied later in the day at MacArthur Park. Los Angeles cops brutally attacked that rally after participants moved off the sidewalk. The police allege that marchers threw plastic bottles at them. To teach them a lesson,

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Salt Lake Tribune/Francisco Kjolseth (top)

Top: More than 2,000 march in Salt Lake City, Utah, on May Day. Bottom: Los Angeles cops fire rubber bullets to disperse protesters at MacArthur Park at end of May Day rally there.

Mexico City decriminalizes abortion

BY LAUREN HART

LOS ANGELES—Legislators in Mexico City voted 46-19 April 24 to decriminalize abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. A few days later the city health secretary announced that 14 of the Mexican capital's 28 public hospitals would immediately begin providing the procedure free of charge.

“This is a step forward, not backward, for a woman's right and freedom to choose. . . about her body and her life,” Gabriela Cruz, 36, told the Associated Press at a pro-choice demonstration in

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Bush vetoes Congress's bill on war spending ‘Antiwar’ pretense by Democrats wilts

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, May 1—With much pomp and fanfare, Democratic leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives sent the White House a bill today allocating \$100 billion for Washington's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The same day, U.S. president George Bush vetoed the bill, which the Democrats have por-

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Atlanta cops plead guilty to brutal killing, get leniency

Many denounce deal, demand justice

BY BILL ARTH

ATLANTA, April 30—The crisis facing this city's rulers from the simmering anger at a series of killings by cops deepened last week with the announcement of plea deals for two officers involved in the murder of 92-year-old Kathryn Johnston in November. Over the last 15 months city and county cops have killed 14 people in the metropolitan area, most

of them Black.

Officers Jason Smith and Gregg Junnier pled guilty to several felonies, including voluntary manslaughter. A third cop facing charges in the Johnston case, Arthur Tesler, said he will fight the charges. The deals include dropping of murder charges. Smith will reportedly get about 12 years, and Junnier a 10-year

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Chinese in N.Y. demand firing of radio hosts for derogatory remarks

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK—One hundred people rallied at CBS Radio here April 27, despite pouring rain, to protest a radio program in which the hosts called a Chinese restaurant to make crude derogatory “jokes” against Chinese and women.

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), which initiated the protest, demanded the firing of the two radio hosts and producer of CBS-owned WFNY's “The Dog-House with JV and Elvis.” In

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Militant/Martin Koppel

April 27 protest at CBS in Manhattan, called by Organization of Chinese Americans, over anti-Chinese program.

Celebrate the life and political contributions of Harry Ring, a communist militant for 71 years

Saturday, May 19

Los Angeles * New York



Brian Shanon

Harry Ring at *Militant*, 1968. Ring was on paper's staff from 1952 to 1989 and served as its editor and Southwest bureau chief. He launched the “Great Society” column in 1968 and wrote it till shortly before his death.

Harry Ring, an internationalist cadre and leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died in Los Angeles April 17. Join us in celebrating his life and political contributions to the building of the Socialist Workers Party and the fight for a new communist international—to which Ring dedicated 71 years. Speakers, locations, and times to be announced.

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300+ sign up for ‘Militant’ on May 1

BY PAUL PEDERSON

May 2—Working people marching across the United States and in other countries yesterday were eager to subscribe to the *Militant*. More than 300 people signed up at the May Day mobilizations in the United States, making week four the best yet in the eight-week circulation campaign.

In the photo on page 4, partisans of the *Militant* draw a steady crowd around

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‘La migra’ sweeps through Pennsylvania town

BY JANET POST

NORRISTOWN, Pennsylvania, April 16—In a joint operation, federal immigration agents and local police have rounded up 37 undocumented workers here so far this month. Among the workers, all men, 24 are from Mexico, 12 from Honduras, and 1 from Lebanon.

The sweep, which continues, is being organized under the federal Homeland Security’s “Operation Return to Sender.” Cops are using local arrest warrants to search apartments.

In the process, other undocumented workers residing in the same apartments are also arrested, according to the Montgomery County *Reporter*. At three apartments, 21 workers were grabbed under the cover of “code enforcement” for “overcrowded rental units.”

A garment worker from Mexico here, who asked that her name not be used, reported that a friend was arrested and sent to an immigration detention center last week after his apartment was raided for an unpaid traffic violation.

In the adjacent borough of Bridgeport, an anti-immigrant ordinance—modeled after a measure passed in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, 80 miles northwest—was approved by the Borough Council in October. Bridgeport’s ordinance, the “Illegal Immigration Relief Act,” would ban renting apartments to undocumented immigrants or employing them in the borough.

Michael Churchill of the Public Interest Law Center plans to challenge implementation of the measure. He told the *Militant* that authorities in Bridgeport are waiting to see the outcome of the federal court ruling on the constitutionality of the Hazleton law, which is expected this spring, before trying to put their measure into effect.

Meanwhile, the Norristown borough

council has decided against pursuing a similar ordinance at this time. But an editorial in the March 14 issue of the local daily *Times Herald*, headlined “Hazleton’s stand is one to watch,” said, “If companies quit hiring illegal immigrants, illegal immigrants will stop coming here in search of work. There won’t be a need to fine landlords, because there won’t be any illegal immigrants looking for a place to stay.”

Eddie Cruz, executive director of Montgomery County Latin American Community Action, organized a town meeting in December at a bilingual

church here to discuss the Bridgeport ordinance. At the standing-room-only event, a heated debate ensued over “immigration reform.”

Those opposing the law outnumbered its supporters. One resident, an immigrant himself, said from the floor, “We are all human beings. We have done nothing wrong but have come to this country to help.” Others said such ordinances are leading to a tense atmosphere of intimidation and need to be publicly fought.

Janet Post is a garment worker in Norristown, Pennsylvania.



Militant/Bob Stanton

Hundreds marched for legalization in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, on May Day.

Trial set for Asian Americans brutalized, framed by cops

BY JOHN HAWKINS

QUINCY, Massachusetts—Nearly 75 supporters of the Quincy Four just about filled the District Court here April 9 to support these Asian American youth during a status hearing in preparation for their trial. Originally scheduled to begin that day, the trial was postponed until June 18.

After more than a year of pretrial hearings, these individuals will be defending themselves against charges filed by the police of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

The Quincy Four are Karen Chen, an organizer of the Chinese Progressive Association; Howard Ng; Quan Manh Thin; and Tat M. Yuen.

The charges stem from an April 30, 2006, encounter with the police here. The cops assaulted the four while they were returning home from a traditional Chinese engagement party. One officer pepper-sprayed three of them in the eyes. Three of the cops roughed up Chen, who is barely five feet tall, giving her a black eye, a swollen face, and numerous bruises. One of the four victims, the prospective

groom, was knocked unconscious.

Karen Chen and Joanna Ng, a witness to the incident, have filed formal complaints with the Quincy Police Department about the cops’ misconduct. The FBI is now investigating their complaint.

During the April 9 hearing, presided by Judge Diane Moriarty, Paul Yee, attorney for Howard Ng, moved to separate his client’s case from the others and proceed immediately to trial. The prosecutor, Jason Mohan, objected to Yee’s motion.

In the brief discussion that followed, Mohan revealed part of the basis on which the prosecution intends to build its case. Referring to a statement describing the April 2006 attack posted on the Quincy 4’s web site, Mohan attributed its authorship to Karen Chen and lamented its “impact” on the reputation of Quincy cops.

The judge sustained the objection.

“The prosecutor basically told us they have no case against Howard and that the only chance they have of getting a conviction in his case is association with the others,” Zenobia Lai, a leader of the Support Committee for the Quincy Four, told the press after the hearing. “And they are trying to introduce into evidence statements made by supporters of the four for the same reason—the overall weakness of their case.”

Defense organizers are now urging supporters of the Quincy Four to turn out in numbers at the June 18 trial, which will take place in Quincy District Court, 1 Dennis Ryan Parkway, Quincy Center.

For more information and up-to-date announcements, visit www.quincy4.com or contact the Chinese Progressive Association, 28 Ash St., Boston, MA 02111; Tel.: (617) 357-4499; E-mail: justice@cpaboston.org.

U.S. income inequality growing

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Income inequality grew sharply in the United States between 2004 and 2005, according to a report on 2005 tax data.

Total income of the top 10 percent of U.S. households—those earning more than \$100,000 a year—accounted for nearly half or 45.8 percent of all reported income in 2005. That’s more than 2 percentage points over 2004 and a 15 percent increase since the late 1970s.

Income of the top 300,000 households almost equaled that of the bottom 150 million—around half the U.S. popula-

tion. The average total earnings of the latter fell 0.6 percent or by \$172 each from the previous year.

The top 1 percent—incomes of more than \$1.1 million—saw a whopping 14 percent increase between 2004 and 2005, an average \$139,000 additional per household. The top tenth of a percent averaged \$5.6 million, up by nearly a million, while the top one-hundredth of a percent averaged \$25.7 million, an increase of nearly \$4.4 million.

An April 4 *New York Times* editorial about the new data noted such gaps were last seen before the Great Depression.

THE MILITANT

‘I recommend that you read it’

“I recommend that you read the ‘Militant’ because it is the only place where you can find out the good things that are happening to workers, unlike other papers.”

—*Marieza Gómez*
Worthington, Minnesota



Marieza Gómez works at the Swift packing plant in Worthington, and is a member of UFCW Local 1161.

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Report details assault by U.S. Marines on civilians in Afghanistan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A report released April 14 by the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission provides new details about an assault by U.S. Marine Special Operations Forces on civilians over a 10-mile stretch of highway in eastern Afghanistan on March 4.

In response to what U.S. troops said was a nearby car bomb explosion that day, the 30 Marines on patrol unleashed random machine-gun fire upon bystanders and vehicles in the area, killing 12 civilians and wounding 35, the commission reported.

Among those gunned down was a 16-year-old woman named Yadwaro who was walking to her family's farmhouse several hundred yards away from the Marine caravan. She was shot in the back while carrying a bundle of grass to feed her family's animals.

"They committed a great cruelty; they should be punished," Ghor Ghashta told the *New York Times*. Yadwaro, her daughter-in-law, died at the door of their farmhouse compound.

Upon hearing a bomb blast and seeing U.S. troops in the area, a driver stopped

his car, the human rights commission report said. The Marines responded by opening fire upon it for 10 minutes. The vehicle was hit by 250 bullets, killing three unarmed passengers—two elderly men and a 16-year-old.

The report "also criticized ongoing house raids by American forces," reported the *Times*, "including one on the house of one of the human rights commission's staff members, who the report said was hooded and handcuffed to a detonator and told not to move in case it exploded."

Army Maj. Gen. Frank Kearney, the commander of U.S. Special Operations forces in the region, ordered the 120-member Marine Special Operations unit, except those involved in the shootings, to leave Afghanistan by the beginning of April. He asked the Naval Criminal Investigative Service to review the incident.

There are 27,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, 15,000 of them under NATO command. The rest of the U.S. forces operate separately from the 35,000-strong NATO force occupying the country.

Cuban delegate at UN body answers Swedish minister on 'human rights'

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt attacked semicolonial countries for alleged violations of human rights at the March 12 meeting of the United Nations Council for Human Rights. Cuba's representative to the council, Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, responded sharply.

Bildt singled out the governments of Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Belarus, Cuba, Uzbekistan, and Iran as being "among those that very clearly need to be addressed by this Council."

He criticized the governments of Iran, Iraq, and, in particular, China for using the death penalty, without mentioning the United States, where capital punishment is used extensively. He then attacked Sri Lanka's government for "extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions," but didn't mention that Swedish troops in Afghanistan recently did just that on orders from the Swedish military command (see article in May 7 *Militant*).

"This morning we heard in shock the statement of the representative of the kingdom of Sweden," Reyes said. "The confrontational and arrogant nature of his speech took us back to the not-too-glorious days of Swedish imperialism, which filled with blood and pain its neighboring countries, several of whom were subjected to colonial slavery under Sweden's conquering boot."

"The cynicism, hypocrisy, and complicity of his [Bildt's] words is astonishing," Reyes continued. "How can one speak about human rights without mentioning the torture center in Guantánamo? How can one do so without referring to the war crimes being carried out by the U.S. occupiers in Iraq? How can one speak in this room about human rights and not mention the secret flights and the ghost torture centers established in several European countries?.... A process and

practice that Sweden no doubt has been part of."

On Dec. 18, 2001, two Egyptian men, Ahmed Agiza and Mohammad El Zari, were picked up by Swedish police and secretly deported to Egypt under dehumanizing conditions on orders from the CIA. Both were then imprisoned and reportedly subjected to torture in Egypt.

Reyes also pointed to widespread racism and discrimination against immigrants and other national minorities in Sweden. Cuba, unlike the Swedish government, he said, does not try "to just retain in its country those whose skin color and hair color would fit in better with the racial patterns of the former Viking conquerors."

Unemployment among immigrants in Sweden is 12 percent, compared to 5 percent for the population as a whole.

The exchange between Bildt and Reyes made the headlines here March 20, one and a half weeks after it happened. One TV station labeled Reyes's remarks "The hate attack against Sweden." The conservative daily *Svenska Dagbladet* said it reflected a "diplomatic crisis with Cuba," and quoted Bildt accusing Havana of opening diplomatic mail to the Swedish embassy in Cuba. The liberal daily *Dagen Nyheter* wrote, "Sweden is accused of ethnic cleansing," while the social democratic *Aftonbladet* quipped, "Carl Bildt in wild fight with Cuba." None of these papers or TV channels reported Reyes's name correctly.

"It's a joy to hear a representative of revolutionary Cuba describe the rulers of Sweden in those terms and speak out against imperial arrogance," said Anita Östling of the Communist League in Sweden, speaking at a Militant Labor Forum here April 6. "The Cuban compañero spoke for all oppressed nations, and in the interests of the working people of Sweden and the world."



Reuters/Rafiq Shirzad

Protesters in the eastern province of Ningarhar, Afghanistan, demonstrate March 4 against assault by U.S. Marine Special Forces that killed 12 civilians and wounded 35 in the area.

Power struggle sharpens among bureaucratic rulers in Ukraine

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—In a blow to President Victor Yushchenko, Ukraine's Supreme Administrative Court issued a ruling April 25 blocking his decree to dissolve parliament and call legislative elections in May. The republic's Constitutional Court is also hearing the matter, but has not yet issued a decision.

The same day, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Tabachnik announced a working group was formed that includes representatives of the "president, prime minister, parliamentary factions, and the opposition" to resolve the political crisis.

A power struggle within Ukraine's government sharpened after Yushchenko issued his decree April 2. At the root of the conflict is a struggle for influence in the former Soviet republic between Washington, which backs the president, and Moscow, which backs Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Some 7,000 Yanukovich supporters set up a tent camp in Kiev, the capital. They erected a stage in the main square and held rallies outside the president's office to protest the decree, reported an April 5 Associated Press dispatch.

The rallies were smaller than those held by both sides after the November 2004 presidential elections. Then, tens of thousands of Yushchenko's supporters held much larger rallies in Kiev condemning the announced vote result as fraudulent. In a compromise, new elections were held in December 2004, in which Yushchenko was elected president—a period that became known as the "Orange Revolution."

In subsequent elections, Yanukovich won a plurality in parliament and became prime minister, using the office to weaken his rival. The conflict came to a head in March, when 11 supporters of the president in parliament switched

sides, giving the prime minister a nearly veto-proof majority.

Yushchenko called the defections illegal. Yanukovich countered that the president's decree was unconstitutional.

Both Yanukovich and Yushchenko come from the privileged caste that ruled Ukraine when it was part of the former Soviet Union. They were both bureaucrats, Yanukovich in the coal industry in the eastern region and Yushchenko in the banking system. They each served terms as prime minister during the previous presidency of Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine, with its 10 million Russian-speaking population, has long served as an agricultural breadbasket to Russia, also providing steel, coal, and access to warm-water ports. Much of Russia's oil and gas sales to western Europe is shipped through Ukraine's pipelines.

Moscow backs Yanukovich, who favors closer ties to Russia. In an April 6 release, the Russian news agency Novosti credited the prime minister for Ukraine's 6.7 percent economic growth last year and for developing business contacts with Russia. The same day, Russia's legislature, the Duma, condemned Yushchenko's decree as "tantamount to usurpation of power in the country."

Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a bill supporting the admission of Ukraine and Georgia into NATO. Washington is also pressing to admit other former Soviet bloc countries, like Albania and the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Macedonia.

But Moscow seeks to slow down the inclusion of more neighboring republics into NATO. An April 6 statement by the Duma described the U.S. government's support for admitting Ukraine and Georgia into NATO as "interference in these countries' internal affairs," reported the Russian news agency Interfax.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Legalization Now! Stop the Raids! How the Fight for Immigrant Rights is Making the Working Class Stronger. Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 3029A Bessemer Rd. Tel.: (205) 780-0021.

FLORIDA

Miami

Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose! Speaker: Deborah Liatos, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 11. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 8365 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 206. Tel.: (305) 756-4436.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Cuban Revolution, Venezuela and the Fight Against Imperialism Today. Sat., May 12. Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

NEW YORK

New York

China and the World Today: A Working-Class Perspective. Speaker: Nancy Boyasko, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 11. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. 307 W. 36th St. 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

After May 1: Which Way Forward for Working People. A panel discussion. Sat., May 12. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Campaign to Free the Cuban Five. Speakers: Alasdair Macdonald, Young Socialists; Rebecca Pinkerton, Committee to Free the Cuban Five. Sat., May 12, 6:00 p.m. Upstairs, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.

Atlanta cops plead guilty, get leniency

Continued from front page sentence.

Roy Pettaway Jr., the father of Ron Pettaway, who was killed by Fulton County cops on April 15 in the Atlanta suburb of College Park (see last week’s issue), said at an April 29 protest here against the police killings, “We’re about justice. I lost my son, and I’m blessed to have my other son with me,” referring to Roy Pettaway III, who had also been shot and wounded by the cops in the same incident, and was there. “It’s out of hand,” Roy Pettaway Jr. said. “This is going on too much right now. Too many people are dying for no reason at all.”

Keith Jones, 39, a cable contract worker, said eight cops where he lives, near Johnston’s neighborhood, drive around in black vans and routinely arrest people. He said he was arrested last year on the charge of “pedestrian walking in the roadway,” while walking with his wife and 11-year-old daughter to a program in which his daughter participates. “The way they done me, I know what they said was a lie. However much time they get, they deserve it.”

“Look at all the ones they been killing in DeKalb,” said Benjamin Christopher Agee, another protester. “The inner city police ain’t going to dig too deep, it’s a brotherhood. It’s just like the dude in New York who just left his bachelor party. Racism is still going on.”

The facts that have emerged from the federal investigation of Johnston’s killing point to how the police frames and kills small-time users and innocent people.

According to the results of the inquiry, Junnier and Smith planted marijuana near Fabian Sheats, a “suspected street dealer,” when they spotted him November 21 on a street near Johnston’s home. The cops told Sheats they would let him go if he gave them something. Sheats lied that he had spotted a kilogram of cocaine

nearby, giving Johnston’s address. The cops then got a no-knock warrant on the false grounds they had purchased drugs at Johnston’s house.

As the raiding officers broke into Johnston’s home with no warning, she fired a shot in self defense that hit the roof of the porch and injured no one. The cops fired 39 shots, hitting Johnston at least five times, including in the chest. The police then handcuffed Johnston as she bled to death on the floor and searched her house. When they found no drugs, they planted three bags of marijuana. The next day, the cops picked up Alex White, an informant, to force him to lie that he had purchased cocaine at Johnston’s house. White refused, managed to escape, and went to the media with the story.

Greg Jones of the Atlanta FBI office said at a news conference that the FBI was investigating “additional allegations of corruption that Atlanta police officers may have engaged in similar conduct.”

Fulton County district attorney Paul Howard said he has started to review hundreds of other cases involving Junnier and Smith, and some convictions may have to be overturned.

Smith’s attorney, John Garland, said his client “was trained to lie by fellow officers to establish probable cause.”

Police Chief Richard Pennington denied accusations by some cops that they falsify evidence because they are pressured into meeting arrest quotas. “The Atlanta Police Department does not have a quota system,” he told the media. “Yes we get on officers for performance. Any corporate system does that.”

Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin, on a trip to Asia to drum up business for local capitalists, defended Pennington. “We have come a long way from where we started,” she said in an email to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, “to become a best-in-class police department. But I have no doubt that Chief Pennington’s professionalism and compassionate leadership throughout this

investigation are evidence of his commitment to help us reach that goal.”

Many workers here see it differently. “The deal that the district attorney made with the two officers is illegal and unconstitutional,” said Donald Kimball, 57, a meatpacker and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1996. “They dealt away Johnston’s civil rights and her basic rights as a human being. Under ordinary circumstances, these people would be indicted and convicted for murder, but because they are puppets of the establishment and the government they are given leniency.”

Ellie Garcia contributed to this article.



Militant/Maceo Dixon
Roy Pettaway Jr., whose son was killed by Fulton County cops April 15, speaks to media at April 29 protest in Atlanta to condemn police brutality and racism.

Chinese in N.Y.: ‘Fire radio hosts!’

Continued from front page response to the initial outcry the station had suspended hosts Jeff Vandergrift (JV) and Dan Lay (Elvis) three days earlier.

“Fire JV and Elvis now!” and “Racist radio must go!” demonstrators chanted. “JV and Elvis=Imus,” said one sign, referring to radio host Don Imus, who was fired after he made racist and sexist remarks about the Rutgers women’s basketball team.

The program was first broadcast April 5. Protesters noted that it was replayed April 19, after CBS had fired Imus.

In the prank call, several unsuspecting workers at a Chinese restaurant are subjected to abusive remarks. The caller tells a worker, “I would love to have lots of Asian food, son of a bitch.” He then tells a female worker, “Should I come to your restaurant so I can see you naked” and, “That way I can see your hot, Asian, spicy ass.” He tells another worker he wants to order “fled lice” but not “old dung” and refers to the part of a male worker’s body as a “tiny egg roll.”

“I am here to protest the disparaging things they said against women,” Wang

Kuirong, a sewing-machine operator, told the *Militant*, speaking in Chinese with translation to English by a fellow demonstrator. “They don’t care what Chinese people think, but we will not let them get away with saying these things.” Half a dozen workers from Manhattan garment factories, sporting their UNITE HERE union caps, took part in the rally.

“They think Asian Americans will stay quiet, no matter what they say,” said Bo Fuld, a young woman from Queens. “It’s important to let people know we are not quiet.”

“There is lots of discrimination against Asians. We can’t stand for that,” said Jamie Li, a Columbia University student active in the New York Asian Women’s Center. She objected to stereotypes “portraying us as not standing up for our rights.”

“They think Asian Americans are fair targets,” said OCA-NY president Vicki Shu Smolin, but anti-Asian “jokes” are “unacceptable.”

An OCA press release noted that JV and Elvis have a history of mocking Asian Americans, “including mimicking
Continued on page 8

Spring ‘Militant’ Subscription Drive March 31 – May 27 ♦ Week 4 of 8			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED KINGDOM			
LONDON	75	54	72%
Edinburgh	30	10	33%
UK Total	105	64	61%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle*	90	82	91%
Chicago	90	69	77%
Newark	120	90	75%
Twin Cities	140	105	75%
San Francisco	110	79	72%
Miami	170	115	68%
Los Angeles	120	76	63%
Birmingham	125	79	63%
Boston	85	52	61%
Houston	100	61	61%
New York	320	187	58%
Washington, DC	105	56	53%
Albany, NY	10	5	50%
Philadelphia	120	60	50%
Des Moines	125	57	46%
Pittsburgh	65	30	46%
San Diego, CA*	15	6	40%
Detroit	8	3	38%
Atlanta	115	35	30%
Tampa	5	0	0%
U.S. Total	2,038	1,247	61%
ICELAND	12	7	58%
CANADA	130	69	53%
NEW ZEALAND	60	32	53%
AUSTRALIA	45	21	47%
SWEDEN	35	17	49%
Int’l totals	2,425	1,457	60%
Goal/Should be	2,400	1,200	50%

Steady progress made on ‘Militant’ fund drive

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON
Supporters of the *Militant* sent in nearly \$11,600 in the fourth week of the paper’s eight-week, \$100,000 fund drive. The campaign also picked up an extra \$1,600 in pledges, with supporters in Chicago, Miami, and Philadelphia all increasing their quotas.

This registers steady prog-

ress in closing the gap between what’s been collected and where we need to be to be on target. The drive continues to lag slightly behind schedule, currently about \$4,000 short of being at the \$50,000 half-way mark. The momentum from the May Day actions can be used to get ahead.

Please send contributions payable to the *Militant* and earmarked “Fund Drive” to 306 W. 37th St.,

10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

300 ‘Militant’ subs on May Day

Continued from front page a socialist literature table at the 150,000-strong rally in Chicago, where 38 people subscribed that day. Other cities where *Militant* supporters sold lots of subs were New York (48), Seattle (36), Miami (29), San Francisco (28), Houston (21), and Twin Cities (21).

A total of 1,457 people have now subscribed since the start of the drive, 601 of them last week. We are now ahead of pace heading into the

final half of the drive. Let’s use the momentum—and unparalleled *Militant* coverage—from the May Day actions to reach out broadly and sign up many more workers and youth.



\$100,000 ‘Militant’ Fund Drive March 31–May 27 ♦ Week 4 of 8			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
FRANCE	300	260	87%
AUSTRALIA	1,400	890	64%
UNITED STATES			
Newark	3,500	2,300	66%
New York	14,000	9,126	65%
Atlanta	6,000	3,895	65%
San Francisco	10,000	6,113	61%
Twin Cities	5,000	2,709	54%
Miami*	3,800	2,005	53%
Chicago*	5,700	2,765	49%
Seattle	7,000	3,086	44%
Washington, D.C.	3,000	1,288	43%
Birmingham	2,500	1,070	43%
Philadelphia*	4,300	1,655	38%
Boston	3,800	1,450	38%
Pittsburgh	3,000	970	32%
San Diego	500	150	30%
Los Angeles	8,000	2,320	29%
Houston	3,000	815	27%
Des Moines	2,000	521	26%
Detroit	65	0	0%
Albany	50	0	0%
U.S. total	85,215	42,238	50%
SWEDEN	500	220	44%
NEW ZEALAND	2,800	1,011	36%
CANADA	3,500	1,060	30%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	1,500	235	16%
Edinburgh	400	0	0%
UK total	1,900	235	12%
ICELAND	450	0	0%
Int’l totals	95,765	45,914	46%
Goal/Should be	100,000	50,000	50%
* raised quota			

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

New Zealand: Casual workers strike Heinz-Wattie food plant

HASTINGS, New Zealand—Casual (temporary) workers at Heinz-Wattie’s main food-processing plant here walked out for 24 hours March 29, in a strike for a collective contract. This followed a two-hour walkout the day before to attend a union meeting, where workers voted to take the strike action.

Supervisors threatened some with firing, a worker, Kohi Newson, told the *Militant*. “I told them we have the right to go to the meeting, we have the right to go on strike. If you show fear they’ll pick on you,” she said. Afterward “we walked in and went straight back to our jobs and ignored their threats.”

Each year, Heinz-Wattie’s employs

hundreds of casual workers to process seasonal food crops for canning and freezing. In previous years these workers were employed directly by the company and worked under a contract that set pay rates and included extra allowances, such as for overtime.

This year, the company contracted Allied Workforce, a temporary agency, to employ workers. All those it employed were started at lower wage rates and no allowances. “They had a 30 percent cut in wages,” said Thomas O’Neill, an organizer for the Service and Food Workers Union. Workers then began having problems receiving their wages. At an April 16 union meeting, workers voted to reject Allied Workforce’s contract offer, so the season ended with no

agreement for next year.

—Janet Roth

Starbucks cited for violating workers’ right to organize a union

The New York office of the National Labor Relations Board ruled March 30 that Starbucks committed 30 labor law violations in activities aimed at preventing unionization at four of its outlets in New York City. The coffee chain fired workers who support organizing a union there, Daniel Gross, who lost his job last August, told the *New York Times*. The workers are demanding wages higher than their current \$8.75 per hour and a guaranteed minimum of 25 to 30 hours of work each week.

—Brian Williams

Expanded picket line backs metal workers on strike in Illinois

AURORA, Illinois—About 100 strikers and their supporters picketed the Fox Valley Forge company here April 12. The expanded picket marked almost six weeks on strike for some 50 workers, members of Boilermakers Local 1600.

The company has refused to seriously negotiate with the workers, who are fighting for their first contract since voting in the union in 2005.

According to strikers, management has offered piece-rate pay that would significantly lower the wages of many workers. In addition, the workers want better conditions on the job and to be treated with respect.

—Rollande Girard

Natives in Canada barricade railway in fight for land

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—The smoldering issue of unresolved Native land claims hit Canada’s national headlines again April 20 when a group of Tyendinaga Reserve Mohawks on the Bay of Quinte barricaded the Canadian National and Via Rail tracks. In defiance of a court injunction, the Mohawks stopped freight and passenger rail traffic for 30 hours on the country’s busiest rail corridor between Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal.

The Natives were protesting the slowness of negotiations with the federal government over the 950-acre Culbertson Land Tract granted to the Six Nations in 1793. The Mohawks insist that the tract was illegally taken from them in 1832.

The protesters also condemned the failure of the Ontario provincial government to act on their demand to revoke the license of Thurlow Aggregates, which operates a massive gravel quarry on the tract near the town of Deseronto.

Earlier in April the Mohawks barricaded and shut down production at the quarry, gravel from which is being used to build condominiums on the disputed land.

“People in the community see it as a company removing the very land while we have people sitting at a table and discussing it,” said protest leader Shawn Brant. “We recognize there can be no meaningful negotiations while these things are happening. We shut them down as part of the rotational economic disruption campaign we promised.”

Exactly a year ago on April 20 Mohawks from Tyendinaga blocked the tracks in the same vicinity in solidarity with a “land reclamation” occupation by members of the Six Nations at Caledonia, southwest of Toronto. At dawn on that day, the Six Nations defenders were attacked by gun-toting Ontario provincial cops attempting to enforce a court injunction ordering an end to their occupation of a housing construction site that began

Feb. 28, 2006. The site is on another land tract the British colonizers conceded to the Six Nations in 1784.

The Natives beat back the cops. Since then, despite a massive police presence and provocations by local politicians and racist groups, they continue to occupy the unfinished housing estate and have forced the government to enter into negotiations.

An editorial in the April 21 *Globe and Mail*, Canada’s main English-language daily, expressed the outrage by Canada’s capitalist rulers at the disciplined determination of the Tyendinaga Mohawks.

The *Globe* accused “radical native protesters” of engaging in “criminal acts dressed up as civil disobedience.” It continued, “As has been shown at Caledonia, law-enforcement agencies and the vast



Toronto Star/Rene Johnston

Bay of Quinte Mohawks block train tracks April 20 just north of Deseronto, Ontario.

Indian-affairs bureaucracies of the federal and Ontario governments have yet to divine a strategy to deal with simple acts of aboriginal hooliganism.” The editorial, published after the protesters had defied the court injunction, urged the cops to “enforce the injunction, remove the barrier and apprehend those responsible.”

“Believe it or not, this is the first soft step of the campaign,” said Shawn Brant two hours after the Mohawks had dismantled the railway barrier. “We have identified three different targets [the railway, provincial highways, and the town of Deseronto] and will escalate the degree of severity necessary.”

Unsettled Native land claims, many of them on energy- and mineral-rich land, as well as land slated for urban development, have escalated from about 250 cases in 1993 to more than 800 now.

Uranium prices up, mines to reopen in West

BY EDDIE BECK

Renewed efforts by capitalists in the United States and other countries to develop nuclear power have fueled a rise in prices of uranium, the ore used for nuclear fuel, and a push by U.S. mining companies to reopen mines shut down for decades or dig for new ones.

This “uranium rush” is spurred by plans by U.S. utilities to build at least 35 to 40 more nuclear power plants in the country in the next 20 years.

British prime minister Anthony Blair has said he wants nuclear power to provide 20 percent of the country’s energy, a substantial increase from current levels that would require building 10 new nuclear power plants by 2020 in the United Kingdom, according to the *Financial Times*. Globally, there are 436 nuclear power plants in operation and 31 more under construction, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2,700 new claims for uranium mining have been filed in Colorado alone in the first quarter of this year, compared to 104 in 2004.

This push is related to the gradual diminishing of the dominant energy sources today, nonrenewable fossil fuels, and recent steep increases in the prices of oil, natural gas, and coal.

The increasing demand for the ore is pushing up its market price. The March 28 *New York Times* reported that uranium ore was trading at \$90 a pound, compared to \$10 five years ago. An April

9 dispatch from Bloomberg News said the Texas-based Mestena Uranium LLC sold 100,000 pounds of the metal at \$113 per pound.

The new rush toward uranium mining, the first since the Cold War ended in the 1980s, has revived concerns among former uranium miners, their relatives, and other working people about the related

threats to health and safety. Many such miners—especially on the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico where some 1,200 uranium mines operated between the 1940s and 1980s—have died or are suffering from cancer caused by exposure to uranium and the radiation it emits. In 2005 the Navajo Tribal Council banned uranium mining.

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



May 14, 1982

More than 5,000 workers have been arrested by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in nationwide raids of factories, shops, and restaurants.

This racist government dragnet, targeting undocumented workers from Central and South America, is a threat to the labor movement as a whole. It represents another escalation of Reagan’s overall attack on the democratic rights of the working class in this country as he pushes deeper into war abroad.

Hundreds of cops have been unleashed by the INS to bust into workplaces and arrest whomever they please. They have already claimed the life of one man, a poultry farm worker in Boulder, Colorado, who was hit by a truck April 30 while fleeing the agents of *la migra*.



May 13, 1957

We extend our warmest fraternal greetings to the tens of thousands who will rally on May 17, in Washington, D.C., in a giant protest demonstration against Jim Crow. This inspiring nation-wide action marks another big advance in the great crusade of the Negro people to win their just demand for complete economic, political and social equality.

In paying tribute to all the men and women who are turning out for this protest rally, we believe a special salute is in order for the trail-blazing freedom fighters from Montgomery, Alabama, who have done so much to make the Prayer Pilgrimage possible.

Montgomery stands as today’s living symbol of the fact that organized, mass rank-and-file action can deal effective blows to the Jim Crow system.



May 14, 1932

“Free Tom Mooney! Free Tom Mooney!” shouted tens of thousands of workers in New York’s May Day parade. “Free Tom Mooney!” with a spirit the rain could not dampen. One knew that all over the United States hundreds of thousands of his fellow workers were shouting the same demand with the same spirit. It was the voice of the class conscious vanguard, the future troops of the revolution, demanding the freedom of the living symbol of their struggle against capitalism. One had only to hear the measured beat, the deep tone of their shouting, to realize how profoundly stirred they were by the monumental hypocrisy and brazen impudence of that watch-dog of capitalism, his excellency, the governor of California, he who “convinced” himself of Mooney’s guilt and refused to free him.

‘Many in U.S., China want to learn about Cuban Revolution’

N.Y. event promotes book by Chinese Cuban generals

BY ANDREA MORELL
AND AMY HUSK

FLUSHING, New York, April 28—More than 60 people attended a program sponsored by the International Resource Center at the Queens Public Library here today to discuss *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. Participants were welcomed by Jiang-Lin Li, program director for the library.

Moderator Martín Koppel, one of the interviewers of the generals for the book, opened the program with a segment of the film *Coolies, Sailors, and Settlers* by Loni Ding. It shows the global forces that brought Asians to the Americas in the 18th and 19th centuries, including the arrival in 1847 of the first Chinese indentured laborers, to replace or supplement African slave labor on sugar plantations.

The documentary was followed by a slide show with photos from the book, narrated by Maura DeLuca, who took part in presentations of the Pathfinder book in Cuba last February.

Panelist Carole Huang, a professor of educational policy at City College of New York and a specialist in Asian American studies, said she found fascinating the book’s picture of the integration of Chinese immigrants into Cuban society and revolutionary history, as shown through the lives of the generals. “The population in Cuba with Chinese heritage is greater than we would expect,” she said.

Huang said that as an educator she was especially impressed by how Cuba eradicated illiteracy in 1961, through the mobilization of 100,000 youth who taught a million people to read and write in a year. Asked to compare Cuba’s literacy drive to those of other countries, Huang said today there was nothing comparable to what revolutionary Cuba has accomplished. She cited the post-Civil War U.S. South, where African Americans, newly emancipated, fought for literacy campaigns until they were set back by the defeat of Radical Reconstruction.

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and president of Pathfinder Press, explained that the working people and youth who brought down the U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959 did not have socialism in mind. They simply wanted a more just society. But as they carried out a sweeping agrarian reform, opened the door to equality for women, and uprooted institutionalized racism, they came into head-on conflict with the U.S. robber-baron owners of Cuba’s economic wealth. Cuban workers and peasants refused to back down, and took control of their own resources through a revolution that overthrew capitalism. To this day, Washington’s goal is “to get rid of the socialist revolution and to punish the Cuban people,” she said.

Waters said the book leads readers to

the largely untold story of Chinese and other Asian immigrants to the U.S. and to their proud record of resistance to oppression. She said it helps us “better understand the struggles by immigrant workers today, why millions are in the streets, and their crucial importance.”

Asked what the generals do today, Waters replied that “all three carry weighty responsibilities in Cuban society.” At the same time, “they are not exceptional but representative” of hundreds of thousands of ordinary Cubans who have transformed society and themselves.

In response to questions about relations between China and Cuba, Waters noted that from the beginning the revolutionary government in Havana maintained relations with the People’s Republic of China, but with the Sino-Soviet rift and the Mao regime’s “Cultural Revolution” in the mid-1960s, relations became nearly nonexistent for a quarter century. There was little published in China about Cuba and vice versa. Now there is growing trade and other contacts between the two



Militant/Eddie Beck

Speakers at April 28 meeting at Flushing public library in Queens, New York, on *Our History Is Still Being Written*. From left: chairperson Martín Koppel; Carol Huang, a professor at City College; and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the Pathfinder book.

countries. That’s why, she added, “the three generals are so happy this book is being translated into Chinese,” so people there can learn about the example of the Cuban Revolution.

Huang held up a Chinese-language biography of Argentine-Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara and said the revived interest in Cuba could be seen in China when five years ago 50,000 copies of that book were sold in 15 days.

A number of people attending the meeting were regular visitors to the Flushing library. One, Michi Otani, who

is Japanese American, said it was the first time she had been to a discussion about the revolution in Cuba.

Five students came from the State University of New York in Albany. One of them, Lindsey Mangeri, said she was particularly interested to learn how “the character of the Cuban Revolution has a direct relation to the U.S. struggle.”

Seven people purchased *Our History Is Still Being Written*, and two subscribed to the *Militant*. Afterward, about 30 people adjourned to a nearby restaurant for dinner and to continue the discussion.

International conference on Cuban Five held in Havana



Militant photos by Jacob Perasso



Left: Julio Martínez, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba, speaks April 30 at conference on Cuban 5 in Havana. Also on panel are Edelys Santana of UJC, Armando Hart, a historic leader of Cuban Revolution, and Paulo Santos da Silva of Union of Socialist Youth of Brazil. Above: Part of audience of more than 400 delegates and guests.

BY RÓGER CALERO
AND JACOB PERASSO

HAVANA, April 30—An international youth conference in solidarity with five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States concluded here today.

More than 420 people from 49 countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe attended the two-day gathering. The largest delegations came from Ecuador (100), Mexico (60), and Cuba (50). The gathering was called by the Union of Young Communists (UJC) and other mass youth organizations here as part of a three-month-long international campaign in solidarity with the Cuban Five. Delegates exchanged experiences in the fight to win public support for freeing the Five, and discussed plans for the ongoing international campaign.

“This is the first international meeting of many more to come,” said Julio Martínez, first secretary of the UJC, in welcoming the delegates and guests.

The Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González—were arrested by the FBI in 1998 and convicted in a frame-up trial in Miami three years later of “conspiracy to commit espionage” for the Cuban government, “conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent,” and, in the case of Hernández, “conspiracy to commit murder.” They are serving

sentences ranging from 15 years to a double life term. The five men were in the United States gathering information on right-wing Cuban American groups based in southern Florida that have had an extensive record of carrying out violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. soil with Washington’s complicity.

“It’s been almost nine years that my father has been in prison,” Irma González, 22, René González’s daughter, told the delegates. She asked that solidarity be extended to the families of all victims of attacks by Cuban counterrevolutionaries operating from the United States. Relatives of the Cuban Five, as well as of those of the 73 people killed in a midair bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados in 1976, participated in the conference.

Panelists and delegates who spoke from the floor protested the recent release from a U.S. prison of Luis Posada Cariles, a Cuban counterrevolutionary and CIA-trained mass murderer. Posada was involved in the 1976 bombing of the Cuban airliner, bombings of Cuban hotels in 1997 that killed an Italian tourist and injured dozens, and failed attempts on the life of Cuban president Fidel Castro. The Cuban and Venezuelan governments have requested Posada’s extradition so he can be tried for these crimes. Washington has refused the request. The final resolution of the conference called for activities to demand Posada’s extradition alongside

the campaign to free the Five.

Delegates from the United States pointed to such actions in El Paso, Texas, and other U.S. cities on May 11, the day Posada is scheduled to appear in court for immigration fraud charges.

“The fight to free the Five is a political fight, and it depends on our actions,” said Carolina Contreras, an organizer of the effort in Venezuela. Contreras called for organizing actions on August 20, including in front of U.S. embassies, for the release of the Five. That day, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta will hear arguments by the defense in appealing the convictions of the Five.

“This is a battle of ideas, and part of the fight against imperialism,” said Viet Le Vu Quang, 25, a student from Vietnam studying physical education here.

“Cuba has contributed a lot to my country,” said Mary Orellana, 18, a medical student from Ecuador. “A lot of people don’t know much about the Cuban Revolution and the situation of the Five. We are going back to continue spreading the word about both.”

At the final session, Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, urged delegates to continue organizing similar activities. “This is the start of an increasingly broader battle,” he said.

Ben O’Shaughnessy contributed to this article.



**Our History
Is Still Being
Written**

THE STORY OF THREE
CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS
IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

\$20

www.pathfinderpress.com

‘Legalization, not deportation!’

10,000 march in New York on May Day

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK, May 1—“Legalization, not deportation!” was the demand of demonstrators here this evening. Ten thousand workers and other supporters of immigrant rights gathered in Union Square, then marched to Federal Plaza. Feeder marches converged on the rally site from several locations, including Chinatown, the largely Dominican district of Washington Heights, Washington Square Park, and Woodside, Queens.

Some 300 rallied earlier in the day at Hempstead, Long Island, and half of them made it to the New York protest.

“Last year we marched, and we stopped a law that was going to criminalize us,” said Elías Irineo, 35, who makes sandwiches at a Manhattan deli. “But now they are treating us like criminals with their workplace raids.” He said his boss profits from the undocumented status of the 12 deli employees, who are paid minimum wage, work 10-12 hours daily, and get no overtime pay.

Many demonstrators voiced anger at the stepped-up factory raids and deportations.

“They are deporting workers and leaving children without their parents. We are protesting the separation of families,” said Clotilde Rondón, a housekeeper. “We want legalization so our rights will be respected as workers. We’re not criminals.”

Rondón, born in the Dominican Republic, was carrying a Senegalese flag a West African worker had given her. “There are no borders here,” she said smiling, amid a sea of flags from Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Philippines, Pakistan, and other countries.

Six busloads of workers came from Long Island, reported Carlos Canales of the Workplace Project, which organized a contingent of 150 from Hempstead. Farmingville and other Long Island towns have been focal points of conflict

as day laborers, most from Mexico and El Salvador, have stood up to attacks by capitalist politicians and rightist groups.

“In a lot of places the police try to intimidate us when we look for work. We’re trying to establish hiring sites so we won’t be harassed,” said Juan Hernández, 51, a Salvadoran-born day laborer. He said they had won official sites in Freeport and other towns but are fighting to establish more.

A contingent of 200 came from Chinatown, led by the Chinese Staff and Workers Association (CSWA), which has organized fights by restaurant, garment, construction, and other workers. Most of the marchers were Chinese and Latin American immigrants. “No to employer sanctions” and “Equal rights for all workers,” they chanted, alternating between Mandarin and Spanish.

Nancy Wu said the CSWA opposes all the various immigration reform bills before Congress. The guest worker programs stipulated in these bills are no more than “slave labor,” she said.

Jerry Weng, a 28-year-old waiter originally from China’s Fujian province, said many restaurant workers are paid under \$2 an hour. “We want fair treatment and equal rights for all workers,” he said.

At the beginning of the demonstration, half a dozen police officers charged into the marchers at Astor Place on Broadway after a sharp verbal exchange between a cop and a protester. The police initially took several people into a nearby garage. More than 1,000 demonstrators surrounded the place chanting, “Let them go!” The cops eventually arrested at least one person. Workers on the scene defused the tense situation and the march proceeded with no further incident.

Luis Madrid and Argiris Malapanis contributed to this article.

More than half a million at May Day in Havana: ‘Free Cuban Five! Extradite murderer Posada!’



Militant/Jacob Perasso

HAVANA, May 1—More than half a million Cuban working people marched here today to celebrate International Workers Day. With signs and chants, marchers reaffirmed their commitment to defend the gains of Cuba’s socialist revolution in face of unceasing economic war by Washington and its imperialist allies. Chanting “Free the Five, Jail the Murderer,” they protested the recent release from a U.S. jail of CIA-trained bomber Luis Posada Carriles and called for his immediate extradition to Venezuela. They also demanded freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in U.S. jails.

Thousands of young people from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and elsewhere studying in Cuba with scholarships joined the march, as did delegates from among the 420 participants in the International Youth Conference in Solidarity with the Cuban Five, which concluded here yesterday (see article on page 6).

—BEN O’SHAUGHNESSY

NBC cameraman in Houston disciplined for flying Mexican flag at May Day rally



HOUSTON—A cameraman for KPRC, NBC’s television affiliate here, has been disciplined by the station management for displaying a small Mexican flag on his camera while filming an April 28 protest here against deportations (above).

During the rally at a park in Houston’s predominantly Latino Magnolia area, the cameraman was harassed by counterdemonstrators from the right-wing group U.S. Border Watch shouting chauvinist taunts. One counterprotester yelled, “You’re a disgrace, you need to be shut down.” Another insisted on mounting a U.S. flag on the camera next to the Mexican flag, in spite of the cameraman’s protests.

Three days later, on May Day, KPRC news director Skip Valet announced that the cameraman had been disciplined in an unspecified manner.

—STEVE WARSHELL

Cops attack Los Angeles rally

Continued from front page
phalanxes of heavily armed riot police began firing rubber bullets into the crowd and clubbing demonstrators. The park was littered with these bullets.

Latino reporters were among those viciously attacked, and some were hospitalized. Hamid Khan of the South Asian Network described the police action as “absolutely an atrocity.”

“To fight for all workers, we need to be legal,” said Pedro Albarran, a meatpacker with 13 years at the Farmer John packing plant, who marched in the larger action. “Then we can defend ourselves from the foremen who humiliate our people.”

A spokesman for the Port of Long Beach reported that truck travel to and from the harbor was down by 50 percent.

“We aren’t going to work today to support the demand for legalization of all immigrants,” said Noel Díaz, a port trucker for 19 years. “We need a union to fight against this situation where we don’t have the rights, benefits, and respect. The price of gas is now up, way over \$3 per gallon, and the truck only goes about four miles to the gallon.”

A group of garment workers from American Apparel marched behind a white banner with gold letters that read, “We are workers not terrorists! Stop the Minutemen and anti-immigrant groups! Yes to legalization!” Thousands of workers at that plant had the day off.

Many high school students ignored Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s plea to stay in school and joined the march.

Maggie Hernández and Ray Rodarte, both freshmen at Garfield High School, said about 50 students walked out of class and marched through East Los Angeles to join the rally.

“They told us not to leave, but we didn’t care,” Hernández said.

“The way my parents are treated isn’t fair. They want them to work, and

that’s it,” said Mara Zuniga, 15, who reported that 40 students from Downtown Magnet High School marched.

Lauren Hart and Wendy Lyons contributed to this article.

May Day Actions in the United States

City	Size
Chicago	150,000
Milwaukee	60,000
Los Angeles	35,000
Phoenix	15,000
New York	10,000
Yakima, WA	10,000
Denver	10,000
Seattle	6,000
Oakland, CA	5,000
San Jose, CA	5,000
San Francisco	5,000
Detroit	3,000
Dallas	3,000
San Antonio, TX	2,000
Salt Lake City	2,000
Twin Cities	1,000
Miami	1,000
Orlando, FL	1,000
Washington, D.C.	1,000
Belle Glade, FL	800
Boston	800
San Diego	600
West Palm Beach, FL	500
Immokalee, FL	500
Houston*	500
Ft. Pierce, FL	400
Morristown, NJ	300
Hempstead, NY	300
Pittsburgh	250
Kenneth Square, PA	200
Bridgeton, NJ	200
Birmingham, AL	100
El Paso, TX	70
Jersey City, NJ	60
Alexandria, VA	50
Total	330,630

*includes 400 at 4/28 action

This is an initial list based on counts by *Militant* reporters on the scene or reports by other media. Where more than one estimate was given, we have used the smaller figure. We urge readers to send in updated information on these or other actions, based on their own experience or from other sources, so a more complete list can be prepared.

150,000 march in Chicago

Continued from front page
lar actions across the United States, in which more than 330,000 people turned out (see initial list compiled by *Militant* on page 7).

With dozens of busses coming from the suburbs, other parts of Illinois, and as far as Indiana and Michigan, the crowds swelled at Union Park, the assembly point here.

Proceeding through the main streets of central Chicago to the ending point in Grant Park, protesters chanted non stop, *Si, se puede!* (Yes, we can!). These chants were often punctuated with even louder cheering and applause, none greater than when marchers passed construction workers holding a large wooden sign that read, *¡Orgullo mexicano; si se puede!* (Mexican pride; Yes we can!) Jaime, a young meatpacker here who came with his girlfriend and asked to be identified only with his first name, said he was marching “for a better future and for legalization for all.” The recent raid in Little Village, the center of the Latino community here, was one of the main reasons for the massive turnout for the protest, both said.

The immigration raid, a week before the May Day action, received widespread media coverage. Tens of thousands saw FBI agents and immigration cops in bullet proof vests and heavy automatic weapons confronting people in a small shopping mall. (This outraged immigrant workers and won sympathy for their cause from

many other working people too.)

According to FBI spokesman Ross Rice, the immigration cops were targeting sellers of false Social Security cards in La Villita. The April 25 *Chicago Tribune* reported that U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said the government was charging “a ring” for such actions, 12 of whom are now in custody and 10 fugitives, including four in Mexico.

Many workers saw it differently, however. Baltazar Enriquez, 27, a construction worker who was detained during the raid, told the *Militant* last week this was “a tactic against our community to intimidate us from going to the march. They came at us with guns but this is having a different effect. We’re marching on May 1.”

“Soldiers bombarded our neighborhood,” Baltazar said. “It looked like they were marching into Iraq.”

“It was way overboard,” Alderman Ricardo Muñoz told the press the day of the raid. “They had machine guns, shotguns, and bulletproof vests.”

“The police closed all the doors and came through calling for people on a list,” beauty salon owner Maricela Iniquez told the *Chicago Sun-Times* April 25. “They made everyone sit on the floor and put plastic handcuffs on some people.”

About 300 people protested the day of the raid in Little Village late into the evening, and the controversy helped publicize the May Day march.

Several hundred protesters today came on one of the Metra trains from the suburb of Aurora. From the train station they marched behind a large banner in support of immigrant workers, which was carried by a contingent of strikers at the Fox Valley Forge Company who are members of Boilermakers Union Local 1600.

Fernando Molina, a young worker from Aurora, marched with his family. “My wife is a citizen, my son was born here, and I’m a permanent resident, but we need to support all those who don’t have papers,” he said. “It’s not acceptable that they are not treated with dignity.”

Many union contingents dotted the march, from UNITE HERE, United



Militant/Jorge Lertora

Turnout at May Day march and rally in Chicago swelled after April 25 raid in La Villita.

Food and Commercial Workers, and other trade unions.

Erek Slater, a young worker who drives a bus for the Chicago Transit Authority, said that when he went to work this morning he was told he would be driving a bus for the police and that, if arrests were made, the cops would use his bus

to hold demonstrators in handcuffs. Despite threats of disciplinary action, Slater refused to take the assignment and explained to his coworkers he would instead participate in the march, which he did.

Ernest Mailhot is a meatpacker in Chicago.

Chinese in N.Y.: ‘Fire radio hosts!’

Continued from page 4

in a fake Korean accent the confessional of the student responsible for the Virginia Tech killings.” The organization has called on companies to pull their advertising from the radio station.

Several demonstrators said the media had “a double standard” in responding to controversies over racist incidents. “There is an uproar over discrimination against some, but you don’t get the same response when the target is Asian Pacific Americans,” said Laura Chen-Schultz, deputy director of the Asian Pacific American Studies Institute at New York University.

“This is no different from Imus,” said Mei-Hua Ru, a representative of city councilman John Liu.

“Asian men are portrayed as lowly coolies or wild men, and Asian women as exotic sex objects. These are stereotypes that perpetuate hatred. We are American

and deserve respect,” said Leo Lee, from the Coalition Against Hate Media.

A dozen rightist counterdemonstrators yelled at the largely Asian American protesters, calling them “communists.” They held up signs saying “Support free speech” in defense of JV and Elvis. This prompted the demonstrators to chant more loudly, “Fire them! Fire them!”

Among the protesters were members of the United Chinese Association of Brooklyn (UCA). According to Jian-Feng Xu, the organization, based in the rapidly growing Chinese community in Bensonhurst, was born out of protests in 2002 against anti-Asian violence. Last February the UCA organized a rally by 200 Chinese American youth and others in front of Lafayette High School. They opposed plans to close the school and replace it with three small schools that, unlike Lafayette, will not offer bilingual classes.

May

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8 The Militant May 14, 2007

Free Cuban 5! Extradite Posada!

Hundreds of thousands of Cuban working people, marching through the streets of Havana on May Day, voiced two demands for elementary justice. They called on the U.S. government to extradite CIA-trained bomber Luis Posada Carriles to be tried for his murderous attacks against Cuba. They also demanded the release of five Cuban revolutionaries serving long sentences in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges.

Both demands deserve the support of working people everywhere. What’s more, the well-known record of Posada Carriles, and Washington’s double standard on these two cases, is a powerful argument for the demand to free the Cuban Five.

Posada is currently on bail in his Miami home, awaiting trial in May on charges of immigration fraud. A U.S. immigration judge ordered him deported to any country but Cuba and Venezuela—the two nations that have asked for his extradition.

A collaborator of the Batista tyranny in Cuba in the 1950s, Posada Carriles was recruited by the CIA and has been active in Washington’s war of terror against the Cuban Revolution for nearly five decades. He orchestrated anti-Cuba bombings in a dozen Latin American and Caribbean countries, including the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people. Arrested in Venezuela to face trial, he escaped thanks to his connections in the Venezuelan and U.S. secret police and resumed his bloody activities, including a string of bombings of Cuban hotels in 1997. Sentenced in Panama to eight years in prison for a failed assassination attempt against Cuban president Fidel Castro in

2000, he was pardoned by the Panamanian government in 2004. When Cuban leaders exposed his presence in Florida in 2005, U.S. authorities arrested him—not for his crimes, but for immigration violations!

In contrast, the FBI arrested the Cuban Five—Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, René González, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino—in 1998 on phony charges including “conspiracy to commit espionage.” They were put in solitary confinement, convicted after a flagrantly unfair trial, and given long prison terms—three of them life sentences.

What was their “crime”? Helping defend Cuba’s sovereignty by reporting on the activities of right-wing Cuban groups and individuals who have organized violent assaults on Cuba with the knowledge and complicity of U.S. authorities.

Posada’s record and Washington’s role in protecting him are ample proof of why the actions of the Cuban Five were fully justified. The U.S. government’s conduct stems from a simple fact: the wealthy rulers of this country hate and fear the *example* of the Cuban Revolution because it shows working people throughout the Americas and the world that it’s possible to win freedom from imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation.

All those who defend elementary justice and Cuba’s sovereignty should support the campaigns to release the Cuban Five and to extradite Posada Carriles to Venezuela. One way to do so is by joining the May 11 protests called in a number of U.S. cities to press these demands.

Abortion: a woman’s right to choose

Abortion is a woman’s right to choose! The April 18 U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding a federal ban on the intact dilation and evacuation (D&E) procedure is an attack on that fundamental right of women to control their own bodies.

Abortion is a medical procedure. The federal ban deals a blow to women’s ability to exercise their right to undergo that procedure by presenting the false argument that a specific operation—dubbed “partial-birth abortion” by opponents of abortion—is somehow morally abhorrent. Democratic politicians posing as defenders of women’s rights have echoed this argument, criticizing the law their party helped pass only for not including an exception for women’s health. But the real target is the fight for women’s equality.

The question is women’s rights, not “ethical” concerns or “defining” the stage at which human life begins. Without control over their reproductive capacities, women cannot take charge of their own lives. They can’t participate fully in social and political life if they can’t decide whether or when to bear children.

The aim of the offensive against the right to choose, and other attacks on women’s rights, is to undermine women’s self-confidence and reinforce their second-class status, which the bosses perpetuate to maximize their profits. That’s why the entire working class has a stake in defending the right to choose.

The U.S. rulers go after this right piecemeal, because most working people support women’s right to choose abortion. In order to avoid a head-on conflict, successive Democratic and Republican administrations have steadily chipped away at it since women won decriminalization of abortion in 1973. Today, 87 percent of U.S. counties have no abortion provider—a fact that hits working-class women, especially those in rural areas, the hardest. Banning D&E is the latest attempt to whittle away at the right to choose.

The recent decision by the Mexico City legislature to legalize abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy reflects the deeper integration of women into social and economic life, a trend in Latin America and around the world. As the numbers of women in the workforce grow, the fight to defend, or recognize for the first time, the right to choose becomes central to forging a fighting labor movement capable of championing the interests of the toilers.

Mobilizing working people and other defenders of women’s rights in the streets to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion is the only effective answer to the latest attack registered in the U.S. high court ruling. It is through such struggles, coupled with proletarian mobilizations such as those for immigrant rights on May Day, that working people can overcome some of the divisions the bosses impose on us and advance the struggle for women’s emancipation.

LETTERS

Prison revolt

Yesterday the uprising at an Indi-

ana prison was covered live on the cable news channels. Today, April 25, it was not to be found. The prisoners have now been put on “lock down.” May God and the solidarity of people on the outside be with those men. We must not allow the rulers to put the whole country on lock down. Looking forward to your coverage. Happy May Day!
Edward Monroe
New Jersey

U.S. Marine convicted for rape

As we enjoyed down time last night, April 26, at work, the discussion on the war in Iraq turned to the Philippines. To illustrate the

character of the imperialist forces, a coworker said a U.S. Marine was convicted of rape there in December. The *Militant* has covered recent joint maneuvers between Filipino and U.S. armed forces, but I don’t remember this case being reported. It looks like a victory for our side.
Katy LeRougetel
Toronto, Ontario

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.

Abortion in Mexico

Continued from front page

Mexico City after the vote.

Up to 1 million women in Mexico seek abortions each year. As in other countries where abortion is illegal, the wealthy have access to safe medical treatment. But an estimated 2,000–3,000 working-class women die each year in Mexico from back-alley or self-induced abortions. Complications from illegal abortions are the fifth-leading cause of death among Mexican women.

The new law registers changing attitudes as women become more integrated in the workforce and social life. A recent poll in the Mexican newspaper *Reforma* showed that 53 percent of Mexico City residents backed the measure, while 43 percent opposed it.

In Latin America, abortion is legal only in Cuba, Guyana, and the U.S. colony Puerto Rico. Federal law in Mexico currently allows abortion in cases of rape or if a woman’s life is in danger. Under the new Mexico City law, women who have an abortion after the first trimester face three to six months in jail, and doctors performing the procedure after that period face one to three years in jail.

Mexico City’s mayor Marcelo Ebrard of the social democratic Democratic Revolution Party has promised to sign the bill into law. Catholic church officials and leaders of the National Action Party, the party of Mexico’s president, have said they will challenge the new law before the country’s Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, when City Health Secretary Manuel Mondragon announced how the law would be implemented, he outlined its limitations. Except in cases of medical emergency, women seeking abortions will have to prove residency in Mexico City to prevent others from traveling there for the procedure. Minors under 18 will need parental consent, and gynecologists can refuse to perform abortions. Fourteen public hospitals will be able to perform up to seven abortions per day in a city that is home to more than 8 million people.

U.S. war in Iraq

Continued from front page

trayed as “antiwar” because it includes a “nonbinding” timetable for redeployment of U.S. troops in Iraq by March 2008. At the same time, Democrats and Republicans in Congress have begun negotiating another war appropriations bill that would be acceptable to the White House.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has refused to receive Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki on the eve of a summit of states in the region. Washington seeks to pressure the governments of Iran and Syria at that meeting to do more to prevent armed groups from using their borders to enter Iraq to attack U.S. and Iraqi government security forces.

Rep. John Murtha, a leading Democrat, has hinted at a war appropriations bill that would impose penalties on the Iraqi government if it failed to meet a range of “benchmarks,” but would drop any timetable for troop redeployment. At the same time, senior Democrats say there is little point now in pressing a confrontation with Bush on Iraq, reported the Associated Press.

Speaking on the CBS TV show “Face the Nation” on April 29, U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice said Bush would oppose any benchmarks that punish Baghdad.

Rice is scheduled to attend the regional meeting in Egypt, where she may also hold talks with Iranian foreign minister Monouchehr Mottaki. “But what do we need to do?” Rice said, referring to Iran and Syria. “It’s quite obvious. Stop the flow of arms to foreign fighters. Stop the flow of foreign fighters across borders.”

The official reason for the snub of Maliki by Abdullah is the king’s schedule. But the Sunni monarchy has increasingly expressed disappointment in Baghdad’s lack of progress in making concessions to wealthy Sunnis in Iraq. Riyadh is also wary of a Shiite-led government in Iraq influenced by Tehran. At an Arab League summit in March Abdullah called the U.S. military presence in Iraq an “illegitimate occupation.”

Meanwhile, U.S. troops and members of Muqtada al-Sadr’s Shiite militia exchanged heavy gunfire in Kadhimiya, a majority Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad, according to the Iraqi interior ministry. A Sadr spokesman said the fighting began after U.S. soldiers surrounded the group’s offices in the area.

The U.S. military also said it captured 72 suspected al-Qaeda members in the provinces of Anbar and Salahuddin, which are largely inhabited by Sunnis.

CORRECTION

The article “Protesters in Georgia demand justice for youth killed by cops” in the May 7 *Militant* mistakenly said that Ron Pettaway, who was killed April 15 by Fulton County police in College Park, “was a self-employed carpet cleaner.” Pettaway was self-employed as a carpenter, specializing in floor installations, with his business named the Floor Doctor, according to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.