

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

May Day rallies around the world celebrate workers' fights
—PAGES 6–7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 19 MAY 18, 2009

UK auto workers win severance, back pay

BY PAUL DAVIS

LONDON—Workers at three Visteon plants in the England and Northern Ireland have won a package concession from the bosses in redundancy (severance) payments.

According to the offer made by Visteon, most of the 610 workers will receive 12 months' in redundancy payments. About 48 workers who were hired after Ford spun off its parts production as Visteon nine years ago will receive six months' pay. The company's offer includes an enhanced redundancy payment, money in lieu of notice of layoff, and owed holiday pay.

On March 31 Visteon informed workers that their plants would close that day. Workers occupied the plants in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Enfield, just outside London. They organized an ongoing protest outside the plant in Basildon, also near London. The workers demanded that Visteon pay the full redundancy provided by the contract.

At the Belfast plant workers have voted to accept the company offer but to remain inside the plant until they start receiving redundancy payments.

"When you're dealing with the dev-

Continued on page 9

'Ft. Dix 5' sentenced in frame-up for 'conspiracy'

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

CAMDEN, New Jersey—A federal judge here handed down stiff sentences to five immigrants April 28 and 29 who had been convicted in a frame-up trial for "conspiring" to attack soldiers at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. The government's case relied primarily on paid government informants who entrapped the defendants and secretly taped conversations with them.

The defendants, who lived in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, were all in their 20s when arrested in May 2007. Three brothers—Dritan, Eljvir, and Shain Duka—who ran a roofing business, were sentenced to life terms. Federal District Judge Robert Kugler added 30 years to Dritan and Shain Duka's sentences on "gun charges." Mohammad Shnewer, a taxi driver, was sentenced to life plus 30 years.

"This is not justice! My son was pushed and intimidated," Faten Shnewer, Mohammad's mother, told the *Militant*. "It was just talk. He never even returned Omar's phone calls," referring to government informer Mahmoud Omar. Ibrahim Shnewer, his father, was also outraged. "We don't feel any justice," he said. "They

Continued on page 9

Chicago May 1 rally demands legalization

'Immigrant rights central issue for labor'



Militant/Jorge Lertora

Contingent at May Day rally in downtown Chicago May 1. Banner reads: "Down with the deportations. This is my land! This is my fight!" Action's lead banner, and official march theme, was: "Without legalization there can be no equal labor rights."

BY BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO, May 1—More than 3,000 workers and students marched from Union Park to Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago on May Day in support of legalization of all immigrants. They also defied an attempt by city authorities to cancel the march and rally on the pretext of the out-

break of the swine flu virus.

Tens of thousands more marched in dozens of other actions celebrating the international workers' holiday across the country (see articles and list on page 6).

In Chicago contingents of workers from several unions, day labor-

Continued on page 7

May Day actions boost drive to win new 'Militant' readers

BY BEN JOYCE

The campaign to win new readers to the *Militant* got a boost last week from participants in May Day marches and rallies for immigrant rights.

Many of the 511 people who subscribed to the socialist newsweekly during a 10-day push to get the drive back on track did so on May Day and

activities leading up to it. The momentum will help supporters of the paper meet the challenge of getting some 450 subscriptions to meet the goal by May 12.

Supporters of the *Militant* newspaper joined others in calling for immediate legalization for all undocumented workers at actions in dozens of cities across the United States.

Distributors of the socialist newsweekly in several cities reached out to college campuses during the week, winning new readers to the paper while encouraging students and others to march on May Day.

In New York, supporters of the paper started May Day going to several campuses to be part of the final push to build the rally and march. The campuses included Hunter College, Baruch College, New York University, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Suffolk County Community

Continued on page 4



Militant/Jorge Lertora

Socialist Workers Party table at May Day immigrant rights march in Chicago.

Poets festival in Toronto backs world fight to free Cuban Five

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

TORONTO—"I want to thank the organizers of the International Festival of Poetry of Resistance for organizing this event in honor of the Five Cubans," said Elizabeth Palmeiro April 25 to more than 100 people during a Homage to Poets of Resistance Past.

Palmeiro is the wife of Ramón Labañino, one of five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly incarcerated in the United States for more than 10 years because of their unwavering defense

of the Cuban Revolution. The others are: Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, René González, and Antonio Guerrero.

Palmeiro missed the first day of the festival because the Canadian government delayed issuing her a visa, according to organizers of the event. She was scheduled to speak that day at the Opening Gala of Poetry and Music, also attended by 100 people.

The festival included poets from around the world, many who speak through their poetry to the worldwide fight for justice and equality. "Many didn't know about the Cuban Five be-

Continued on page 4

Chrysler files bankruptcy, slashes jobs

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Chrysler, the third-largest U.S. auto company, filed for bankruptcy April 30, one day after United Auto Workers (UAW) members approved wage and benefit givebacks demanded by the company and the U.S. government.

Chrysler immediately announced that nearly all of its 30 assembly and parts plants in the United States, Can-

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

Workers face brunt of swine flu hysteria	2
Sweden: Communist League fields EU candidate	3
Free speech violated in N.Y. "terrorism" case	4
Bulgaria steelworkers demand back pay	5

Workers bear brunt of hysteria over swine flu

BY BEN JOYCE

The decision of the Egyptian government to slaughter the country’s pigs is one of the more extreme examples of the hysteria being whipped up around the swine flu. Working people face the brunt of such callous and administrative measures taken by capitalist governments supposedly to stem the flu’s spread.

Around 1,000 pig farmers in Cairo protested May 3 against the government’s plan to kill the country’s 300,000 pigs. The protests were met with some 200 police firing tear gas and riot bullets, injuring 12 people.

There are no reported cases of swine flu in Egypt. The World Health Organization (WHO) pointed out the slaughter is unnecessary since the disease is spread by humans, not pigs.

The pig farmers are mostly members of Christian minorities who work as garbage collectors and raise pigs off the rubbish they collect. There are 65,000 pigs in Manichiet Nasser, a Cairo neighborhood of 55,000 residents where the demonstration took place.

Isaac Mikhail, head of the garbage collectors association, told the Associated Press that the government recently slaughtered 600 pigs and compensated the farmers at about half the market rate of about 55 cents a pound.

According to the May 4 *Financial Times*, the Mexican government said that out of the original estimate of 176 deaths only 19 have been confirmed as swine flu related, a figure

later updated to 29 by the Mexican Health Department. The government announced May 4 that it would allow most businesses to reopen after many were ordered shut three days earlier.

A 2003 Centers for Disease Control study estimates that an average of 36,000 people in the United States die of seasonal influenza every year. So far there are two confirmed U.S. deaths from swine flu this year.

The Chinese government quarantined some 70 Mexican travelers, although only one of them was known to be sick. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that Mexican travelers arriving on various flights from Mexico and the United States were singled out by Chinese health officials who boarded aircraft and took away passengers holding Mexican passports.

British Airways is handing out masks to Mexico-bound passengers, while Lufthansa will carry doctors on each flight to Mexico. Continental, United, and US Airways announced May 1 that they would significantly reduce flights to and from Mexico because of swine flu.

The Canadian tour operator Transat announced April 29 that it will cancel all its flights to Mexico until the end of June and will bring all its customers and personnel currently there back to Canada. Alaska Airlines is taking away all of the pillows, claiming this will minimize the chances of contamination.

Margaret Chan, director-general of WHO, told the *Wall Street Journal* that “we can not overreact and we cannot be complacent either. We

Interest in Pathfinder high at L.A. book fair



Militant/Naomi Craine

LOS ANGELES—Readers attending the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books browse and discuss with volunteers at the Pathfinder Books booth. Among the thousands attending the April 25–26 event at the University of California at Los Angeles, hundreds visited the Pathfinder booth, including several students from University High School who stopped by on the recommendation of their teacher. Top selling books were *Communist Manifesto*, issues 12 and 14 of the Marxist magazine of theory and politics *New International, Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa, Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* and several titles by Ernesto Che Guevara and Malcolm X. Visitors purchased 44 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

—BILL ARTH

haven’t seen the full spectrum of the disease.”

Chan did not say when WHO might raise its “influenza pandemic alert” level from phase 5 to phase 6. “The agency declares a pandemic when community outbreaks are occurring in two countries in one region and at least one country in another region,” the *Journal* reported.

Meanwhile, the Cuban government continues to calmly take preventive measures against the virus, activating the National Civil Defense command structure in preparation for any potential threat. The National Civil Defense leads a coordinated mobilization of the population to respond to emergencies such as hurricanes. Steps to ensure speedy detection and diagnosis are in place.

In a discussion on “The Roundtable,” a Cuban television show, Luis Estruch,

deputy minister of public health for hygiene, epidemiology, and microbiology, responded to the question of whether Cuba would prohibit large crowds from gathering or close schools, as has been done in other countries.

“No,” Estruch said. “I would say that we may all parade this May Day . . . there is nothing to keep us Cubans from having our events celebrating this great commemoration for workers, and join all our forces together with the Revolution.

“We are very strong as a nation because of our social system and the unwavering political will of health being a top-priority task. The life of a human being is more important than any riches. And that has made it possible for the country to have strength in the development of its health system, in the organization of its people and in the stability of public health.”

THE MILITANT

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

Communist League fields EU candidate in Sweden

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN
STOCKHOLM, Sweden—"We have to face the truth: We are at a period in which workers are more open to the idea of a proletarian revolution," said Dag Tirsén, the Communist League's lead candidate for the European Parliament. "And it is beginning with a counterrevolutionary attack from the bosses and their government. They have to do that in order to reestablish their profits. They must take what we have conquered."

Tirsén was speaking at a meeting here on May 2 to officially launch the election campaign of the Communist League. He described how workers who have been given layoff notices by the tens of thousands over the last few months are now being forced to leave their jobs and live on unemployment payments—a considerable lowering of their standard of living.

"It is not a question of bad morals; it is a crisis for the system. That's what we want to discuss with workers who are beginning to fight, and with young people." Tirsén also outlined a number of concrete demands "to protect us from being torn apart and bring us together" that are listed in the election platform the Communist League adopted May 1.

Paul Davies from the Communist League in the United Kingdom joined Tirsén on the platform. He described what had happened to workers at three Visteon plants in England and Northern Ireland, as an example of what workers will face (see story on front page). "The owners claimed bankruptcy and gave the workers a few minutes to leave their jobs," he said. "But the workers in the plant in Belfast refused and organized an occupation of the plant. They set an example for workers at the two other factories who joined the fight."

Workers from Sweden as well as Finland and Norway participated in the lively discussion, also giving examples from experiences, discussions, and meetings they have had with workers

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA
San Francisco
Abolish the Death Penalty, Instrument of State Terror Against the Working Class. Halt the Execution of Troy Davis! Convict and Jail the Cop who Killed Oscar Grant! Panel of Speakers. Fri., May 15 Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

GEORGIA
Atlanta
Stop the Execution of Troy Davis. Speakers: Cheryl Goertz. Fri., May 15. Dinner, 7 p.m., program, 8 p.m. 465 Boulevard SE, Suite 201A. Tel.: (404) 627-3704.

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis
Why the U.S. Government Targets Somalia. Fri., May 15. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 1311 1/2 E Lake St. (2nd floor). Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

SWEDEN
Stockholm
No Warships to Somalia! Fri., May 15, 7 p.m. Bildhuggarvagen 17, 121 44 Johannelshov. Tel.: 08-31 69 33.

from Eritrea, Somalia, and Dubai.

One participant spoke about a conversation with a Somali worker after he had heard a Communist League candidate speak at the square in his working-class community. "I talk to my parents in Somalia every week and the country is just devastated," he said. "But now I just lost my job here after working for three and a half years—the devastation is spreading to Sweden too." He was eager to read and discuss the election platform of the Communist League.

The Communist League's election campaign actually started prior to the May 2 meeting. Tirsén described how the candidates had spoken on squares in different working-class areas and had taken the campaign to universities and campuses in the Stockholm area, including participating in a whole day of

Meeting on Martí, Juárez, Lincoln rescheduled

BY STEVE WARSHALL
HOUSTON—Organizers of the First International Conference on José Martí, Benito Juárez, and Abraham Lincoln in the Heart of Our America announced April 30 their decision to reschedule the conference due to the situation caused by the widespread flu outbreak in Mexico.

Originally scheduled for May 18–19 in Monterrey, Mexico, the conference was to bring together academics, students, workers, immigrant rights activists, and others from across the Americas. Conference presentations, according to the organizers, were to discuss confronting "the world crisis today and how to defend the interests of the vast majority of toiling humanity."

The meeting is now rescheduled for

New donors aid 'Militant' fund

BY ANGEL LARISCY
The eight-week campaign to raise \$105,000 to help finance the *Militant* newspaper is ahead of schedule, with 70 percent of the quota collected. Supporters in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., have decided to increase their goals, bringing the total amount pledged to \$104,550.

Supporters of the socialist newsweekly are working to increase the number of contributors to the fund, with special attention to new readers and those who've not given before.

Susan Lamont of Washington, D.C., reports partisans of the paper in that city have taken a goal of winning four new contributors in the next couple of weeks as they build on the success of their fund-raising efforts so far.

"We had a wonderful meeting for the *Militant* Fund in Pittsburgh," Lamont wrote. "Twelve people attended a house meeting to hear a report by Omari Musa on 'The Cuban Revolution in World Politics Today.' A wide-ranging discussion on the Cuban Revolution, Equatorial Guinea, the Palestinian struggle, and other questions followed the presentation. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all!" Lamont reports that a total of \$2,180 was contributed and pledged.

In New York *Militant* supporters



Dag Tirsén, Communist League candidate for European Parliament, speaks at May 2 meeting in Stockholm launching his campaign. To his left is campaign supporter Daniel Nordström.

presentations and discussions of *Capital* by Karl Marx at the university.

The high point, Tirsén said, had been the invitation to speak to members of the Somali Peace and Devel-

opment Organization. The group led a four-month-long fight to free two of its leaders from jail after they were arrested and accused of aiding terrorism. The election campaign ends June 7.

Thursday, October 15 through Saturday, October 17.

Pointing to the new difficulties in travel posed by the suspension of flights to Mexico and other restrictions, the organizers noted that some participants had expressed reservations about attending the event.

Continental, United, and US Airways announced May 1 that they would significantly reduce flights to and from Mexico because of swine flu. The Canadian tour operator Transat announced April 29 that it will cancel all its flights to Mexico until the end of June and will bring all its customers and personnel currently there back to Canada.

The flu outbreak caused a nationwide shutdown of all businesses and schools by May 1. Mexican president Felipe Calderón announced May 5 that most

businesses could now reopen. Universities and high schools would remain closed until May 7, and primary schools until May 11.

In postponing the meeting, conference organizers Eulogio Rodríguez and María de la Paz Quintanilla noted that due to the enthusiastic response, a new schedule included an extra day to allow for additional presentations and workshops. "We ask that you not cancel your attendance," they explained, "but rather participate on the new dates and use the extension to build the conference even more broadly."

Additional information can be obtained from the conference Web site at www.conferenciamartijuarezlincoln.com, or by contacting the organizing committee at: martijuarezlinconconferencia@gmail.com.

'Militant' Fund Drive Spring 2009 ♦ Week 5 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia*	\$3,600	\$3,320	92%
San Francisco	\$13,000	\$10,101	78%
New York	\$15,500	\$11,783	76%
Twin Cities, MN	\$6,600	\$4,965	75%
Washington, D.C.*	\$5,400	\$3,987	74%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$5,109	73%
Des Moines, IA	\$1,900	\$1,223	64%
Atlanta	\$8,000	\$5,037	63%
Miami	\$3,300	\$2,069	63%
Chicago	\$9,000	\$5,450	61%
Newark, NJ	\$3,200	\$1,777	56%
Los Angeles	\$8,800	\$4,155	47%
Boston	\$2,800	\$1,155	41%
Houston	\$3,000	\$1,200	40%
Other		\$550	
TOTAL	\$91,100	\$61,881	68%
CANADA*	\$7,500	\$7,081	94%
NEW ZEALAND	\$2,500	\$2,020	81%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	\$500	\$355	71%
London	\$1,500	\$592	39%
TOTAL	\$2,000	\$947	47%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,050	\$823	78%
SWEDEN	\$400	\$488	122%
TOTAL	\$104,550	\$73,240	70%
SHOULD BE	\$105,000	\$65,625	63%
* Raised quota			

Poets back Cuban Five

Continued from front page fore being contacted for the event,” said Lisa Makarchuk, one of the organizers.

Prominent writers and poets from Cuba participated, including Nancy Morejón, president of the Cuban Writers Association; Pablo Armando Fernandez; and others.

Muneeza Hashmi spoke about her father, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, a Pakistani poet who wrote in Urdu. She too was prevented from attending the first day of the festival because the Canadian government refused to issue her visa on time. She said Canadian authorities told her that they were concerned she might overstay the five-day visa. Hashmi said that she is too attached

to Pakistan and her family to even consider staying over.

Henry Padrón, a Puerto Rican living in United States, read poetry about the fight for the independence of Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony. He noted that Puerto Ricans have no say in what affects them from day to day.

From the United States, Allison Hedge Coke, author of *Dog Road Woman*, read a poem from a Mapuche Indian of South America and another one from a Native from Alaska. Coke is Huron and Cherokee.

Marilyn Lerch, who now lives in New Brunswick, Canada, read a poem about the Palestinians’ fight for justice.

Gary Geddes, from Canada’s West



John MacLennan

Cuban poet Nancy Morejón (left) and Elizabeth Palmeiro, who is married to Ramón Labañino, one of five Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. prisons on frame of charges of conspiracy to commit espionage, speaking at International Festival of Poetry of Resistance in Toronto.

Coast, gave a presentation on “Operation Trojan Horse: the Link Between Poetry and Politics.” He denounced the role of Canadian mining companies and of the Canadian army in Africa.

Free speech violated in N.Y. ‘terrorism’ case

BY SETH GALINSKY

In an attack on free speech and freedom of the press, a Staten Island businessman was sentenced April 23 to nearly six years in jail for broadcasting satellite programs from Lebanon’s al-Manar TV station.

U.S. prosecutor Eric Snyder claimed that Javed Iqbal, the owner of HDTV Ltd, was “Hezbollah’s man in New York City.”

Iqbal, a Pakistani immigrant and former motorcycle mechanic, operated the satellite TV business out of his home. His company offered a wide variety of programming, including Christian evangelists and “adult” entertainment.

Lebanon-based al-Manar broadcasts soap operas, dramas, and MTV-like music videos, as well as news and speeches from Hezbollah leaders. Hezbollah, a bourgeois party, is legally recognized in Lebanon and has nine

members of parliament. The U.S. State Department added Hezbollah to its list of “foreign terrorist organizations” in 1997 and the Treasury Department added the TV station to its terrorist list in March 2006, just five months before Iqbal’s arrest.

Al-Manar was formed in 1991 and began satellite broadcasts in 2000. It belongs to the Arab States Broadcasting Union under the auspices of the Arab League. Its Web site is easily accessible and appears in Arabic, Spanish, French, and English.

Iqbal faced up to 15 years in prison. He accepted a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to a single count in December.

“I have not harmed anyone in my whole life,” Iqbal said in a statement to the court.

Iqbal’s lawyer had tried to get the case thrown out of court as a violation of the First Amendment, but U.S. District Court Judge Richard Berman re-

fused. He ruled that Iqbal was not being prosecuted for the “content” of speech, but for providing “material support” to a “terrorist” group, by broadcasting the al-Manar channel and selling it to customers in the United States.

Final subscription drive week

Continued from front page

College. They also joined several May Day actions in and around the New York area, including a march of 1,500 people from Union Square to Foley Square in Manhattan despite the pouring rain.

A lively contingent led by Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York, joined the march, carrying signs and banners calling for immediate legalization for all immigrants and led chants around the same slogan. During the target week 92 people subscribed to the paper in New York City.

Militant supporters in Florida won 13 new readers last week. Efforts to build May Day actions in Miami and Orlando included reaching out to students at University of Miami, Miami Dade College, and University of Central Florida.

A team of Militant supporters went to Phoenix May 2 to take part in a demonstration against the brutal treatment of immigrant workers and prisoners there by County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio. Four participants in the march subscribed, 12 got single copies along with three titles from Pathfinder Press. (See article on page 6.)

In Chicago, 53 new readers signed up for the paper during the target week. The subscriptions were purchased on campuses and through door-to-door teams in working-class communities that helped build the May Day march for legalization. The demonstration attracted some 3,000 people. Supporters of the paper from Chicago and Des Moines, Iowa, sold 23 subscriptions there.

In the final stretch of the subscription campaign a major push is needed to bring in the remaining 456 subscriptions. A day-to-day effort will

In 2008 two of the largest gold mining companies in Canada with operations in Africa brought lawsuits aimed at preventing publication of *Noir Canada*, an exposé of the company’s plundering of Africa’s resources.

Other poets came from Turkey, India, Argentina, Colombia, and other countries.

“You try to shut the voices of the Cuban Five. You defend democracy in Afghanistan with war, occupation, and torture. We will resist any form of oppression, one poem at a time,” stated one of the poets.

need to be organized in each city in order to make the international goal of 2,150.

Readers of the Militant are encouraged to help make the drive a success. If you would like to be part of getting this revolutionary working-class perspective into the hands of workers, farmers, youth, and others who need this unique point of view, contact a local distributor listed on page 8.

Alyson Kennedy in Chicago, Emily Paul in Miami, and Naomi Craine in Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Socialist Workers candidates speak at U.S. May Day rallies

BY JOEL BRITTON

SAN FRANCISCO—Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city attorney, addressed the May Day rally here. Sherman was proceeded by David Campos, San Francisco supervisor, who spoke before her and called for “immigration law reform.”

“We need to give people who make very important contributions to our society the chance to formally become members of it,” Campos said.

Such a “road to citizenship for a few is a road filled with road blocks, twists,

turns, and potholes,” Sherman responded.

“This road,” said Sherman, “includes telling many immigrants without papers to ‘get back to the end of the line’ and pay outrageous fines. And after all that, there is no guarantee of getting papers. This is worse than a road to nowhere, it’s a trap. What we need to fight for is immediate, unconditional legalization for all immigrants, without restrictions.”

Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers candidate for Atlanta city council president, addressed a rally in Gainesville, Florida. “The Socialist Workers campaign calls for legalization now for all immigrant workers without conditions,” he said. “We need legalization to unite the working class.”

“The bosses try to divide us,” Perasso, a meat cutter, explained. “They want immigrant workers in this country but they don’t want to give them equal rights. What they want are workers who are afraid to fight against unsafe conditions on the job and for unions. We can’t let the bosses divide us. Workers born here need to join this fight. It is our own.”

In Seattle, SWP candidate for mayor Mary Martin spoke at a May Day rally and in San Juan, Texas, Róger Calero, the 2008 SWP candidate for U.S. president, spoke.



Militant/Zach Liddle

Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers candidate for city attorney, speaks at May 1 immigrant rights rally in San Francisco.

‘Militant’ Subscription Drive

March 21 – May 12, 2009
Week 6

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Los Angeles	125	126	101%
Newark, NJ	75	71	95%
Seattle	101	89	88%
San Francisco	150	129	86%
Chicago	120	102	85%
Atlanta	160	134	84%
Boston	60	49	82%
Houston	95	77	81%
Twin Cities, MN	140	113	81%
Des Moines, IA	130	100	77%
Philadelphia	75	56	75%
New York	280	208	74%
Washington, D.C.	70	48	69%
Miami	150	70	47%
Other		12	
TOTAL	1731	1384	80%
CANADA			
	115	77	67%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	35	31	89%
London	80	74	93%
TOTAL	115	105	91%
NEW ZEALAND			
	70	53	76%
AUSTRALIA*			
	60	54	90%
SWEDEN			
	20	21	105%
Total	2111	1694	79%
Should be	2150	1843	86%
*raised quota			

ON THE PICKET LINE

Professors at University of Quebec settle strike

MONTREAL—Meeting in a general assembly April 24, striking professors at the 40,000-student University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) voted by 91 percent to accept a settlement reached by their union leadership with the university administration and the Quebec government.

The strikers forced the university to grant them salary parity with other University of Quebec branches, with an 11 percent increase over four years. UQAM administrators are also committed to hiring 145 new professors over five years. The strikers originally demanded 300, with the administration offering only 25. The vote was taken as the government prepared to call a weekend session of the Quebec National Assembly to pass a strikebreaking “special law.”

Since the beginning of the strike March 16 there have been a series of actions in support of the professors, including three demonstrations and two public meetings involving hundreds of professors, students, and others.

—Michel Prairie
and John Steele

Bulgaria steelworkers demand back pay

More than 500 workers from Bulgaria's Kremikovtzi steel plant marched in Sofia, the capital, April 30 to demand back pay and unemployment compensation.

The workers first marched to the economy ministry, where an official read a statement outlining steps the Bulgarian government says it has taken to aid the plant. After no one from the ministry agreed to meet with them, the workers marched to Parliament.

The workers told the Sofia News Agency they had learned that 1,500 workers would be laid off in the coming days, followed by another 1,000 by the end of May.

The unions are demanding that each laid-off worker receive 30 months' pay as compensation.

—Sam Manuel

Bahrain contract workers strike over death in camp

More than 600 workers went on strike April 28 against a labor contract company in Bahrain after a coworker from India died in one of the company's camps, reported the *Bahrain Daily News*.

According to the *News*, Bala Krishna, 30, had completed his two-year contract more than nine months ago but it had not been renewed. Workers said that their pleas to the company to assist Krishna, who had become ill, fell on deaf ears.

One worker said that hundreds had either completed their contracts or had been terminated by the Habib Ali Awachi labor contract company but remained in Bahrain because the company claimed it couldn't afford to send them home.

“We will continue to stay away from work unless our grievances are addressed,” a worker told the *News*.

—Sam Manuel



Militant/John Steele

Students and professors demonstrate in downtown Montreal April 15. Signs read: “UQAM underfinanced” and “No to the special law.” Striking professors won salary parity with other University of Quebec branches and hiring of more faculty.

FBI interrogates Somali students in Minneapolis

BY TOM FISKE

MINNEAPOLIS—New information has come to light about the scope and character of FBI interrogations of Somalis here. Especially targeted have been Somalis at the University of Minnesota.

The questioning of the students is part of a wide-ranging investigation by the FBI over the last several months. The interrogations include questioning and visiting individuals in their homes, at educational institutions, and at airports about the “disappearances” of some 20 local Somali youth, who the bureau alleges have gone to fight for the al-Shabab Islamist militia in Somalia.

University of Minnesota student Ruqia Mohamed described her encounter with the FBI to the *Minnesota Daily*, a student newspaper. “Mohamed said the FBI agents were ‘two young girls dressed casual, unlike those I see on TV.’ They came into her house with pictures of missing men and local mosques in the Twin Cities,” the paper stated.

Mohamed told the *Daily*, “They asked me about how [one of the two missing men from the University] used to dress and the mosques he attended.” In the

newspaper interview with the *Daily*, she asked if such questions are relevant.

Fathi Gelle, president of the Somali Student Association at the university, told the *Daily* that many students initially talked to the FBI. “At first, she said many people volunteered information to the FBI, but only some have been repeatedly questioned.” Gelle stated it is “wrong that the FBI is approaching the students in the campus.”

Mukhtar Osman, a senior at the university, told the *Militant* that the FBI agents have come to the offices of the Somali Student Association a couple of times. “Typically the FBI agents ask, ‘Can I talk to you for five minutes.’ But once you start talking to them it is hard to get away,” he said.

Over the months of the investigation, “the Somali community has had a really bad experience with the FBI,” said Osman. “Frequently they don't know your full name when they approach you. ‘Are you so-and-so?’ they ask, using just the first name. ‘Yes, let's go and talk.’ Many of us initially were scared and think we are in trouble. They don't ask you if you want to talk. Many of

the very young and elderly don't know their rights.”

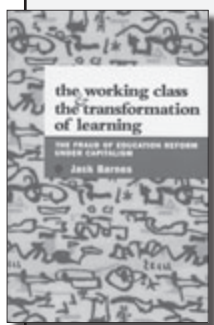
Aman Osiywe, a graduate student, said he knows a number of students who have been questioned. “They catch you coming out of class or at the library. They ask you many questions that are not relevant. ‘Which clan do you belong to? How many times a day do you pray? What mosque do you go to?’ The investigation should be done more professionally. I don't trust what's going on.”

Rashid Ali, a student at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, said that the announced motive for the FBI investigation “sounded like an exaggeration. The FBI says these youth might come back and carry out terrorist activity here. However, these youth are tagged. Personally I think the investigation is a scare tactic.”

The interrogations have prompted the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations to send letters to area high schools, colleges, and institutions asking for legal support to Somali students who have been questioned on campus by the FBI. The agents have questioned them without lawyers present.

For further reading

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning



by Jack Barnes
“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.” **\$3**

Europe and America



by Leon Trotsky
Explains the emergence of the United States as imperialism's dominant economic and financial power following World War I. Highlights the coming conflicts and revolutionary openings for the working class. **\$12**

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 18, 1984

CLIFTON-MORENCI, Ariz.—The National Guard has returned to this copper mining area for the second time during the strike against the Phelps Dodge Corp., the state's largest copper producer. Copper miners have been on strike against the company since July 1983, for over 10 months.

The Arizona guard was sent in by Democratic Gov. Bruce Babbitt on Sunday, May 6, on the heels of a police assault led by Department of Public Safety officers against a May 5 strike solidarity march and rally.

At least 12 strikers and supporters were arrested on trumped-up charges ranging from “unlawful assembly” and “inciting to riot,” to “aggravated assault.”

Last August, Babbitt sent hundreds of heavily armed guardsmen into Morenci and Ajo, centers of the copper strike.



May 18, 1959

A mighty nationwide roar of anger is rising from American Negroes in the wake of the Poplarville, Miss., lynching, the rape of a Negro co-ed by four white men in Tallahassee, Fla., and the refusal of Monroe, N.C., courts to punish white men for crimes against Negro women.

The call by a Negro leader in Detroit for a protest “March on Mississippi” is reverberating through the Negro press. Students at the Negro university in Tallahassee have staged a strike and demonstrations and with colored townspeople have jam-packed the courtrooms to emphasize their demand that Florida's rape laws at last be equally enforced.

In North Carolina the NAACP leader of Union County has urged Negroes to resist “violence with violence” even if it means “laying down your lives.”



May 19, 1934

Now it is opportune for us to take a look at [John] Dillinger [a famous bank robber], to examine and interpret this one-man crime wave from the Bolshevik point of view.

The bourgeoisie can condemn him. Mr. Dillinger frightens them. They live in mortal terror lest he be apt to steal from them that money which they have in turn squeezed from the hides of the workers. Should we not, then, take him to our bosoms: “The enemy of our enemy is our friend.” He is called a Robin Hood, a friend of the oppressed.

And nothing could be further from the truth. True, he expropriates the expropriators. But to whose purpose? The working class, or Mr. Dillinger's own selfish purposes, and those of his henchmen? Dillinger robs the possessing class, but only in order to become a member of that class himself.

Phoenix march protests anti-immigrant sheriff

BY NAOMI CRAINE

PHOENIX—Some 2,000 people marched here May 2 to protest the brutality organized against immigrant workers by the county sheriff, Joseph Arpaio.

The march, called by PUENTE Arizona and the National Day Laborers Organizing Network, went from downtown Phoenix to the Tent City, a jail on the outskirts of town where immigrants and other prisoners are held in tents under desert conditions.

The main slogans of the “Walk for Respect” were: “Stop Arpaio” and “Stop 287(g)s,” referring to the federal law that allows the sheriff here and other local police agencies to enforce immigration laws. The other most popular signs read: “We are human,” “Immigration reform now,” and “Stop the raids.”

Several marchers carried signs highlighting particular cases in which sheriff’s deputies had broken into homes and assaulted and arrested workers without cause, in many cases deporting them. Adela Guerra told the *Militant*, “My friend’s husband and coworkers were going to work at a construction site in the back of a truck when they were pulled over by cops who said the taillight was out. The cops found out they were from Mexico and deported them.”

Dozens of students from Arizona

State University took part in the march. Gustavo Chaydez said he came because “I’m seeing what the sheriff is doing, and that abuse of power makes me want to change it. . . . My grandparents were brought here from Mexico to work in the fields in the early 1900s. Do they want us or not?”

One homemade sign read, “No virus is as harmful as the 287(g).” On April 28 Arpaio had issued a fear-mongering statement accusing “illegal aliens” of bringing swine flu from Mexico to Arizona. The march grew as it moved through town. Five workers from a beauty salon joined in for a couple of miles, without their boss’s permission.

About 30 rightist counterprotesters rallied outside the jail carrying signs that read, “We support Joe.” One waved a large Confederate flag.



Militant photos by Ron Richards (left), Gary Willhite (above)
Above, day laborers in Chicano Park in San Diego hold up Mexican flag on May Day. The workers are founders of day laborer’s newsletter *El Mosquito Zumbador* (The Buzzing Mosquito). Left, contingent of teachers in San Juan, Puerto Rico, participates in May 1 demonstration. They joined tens of thousands of workers who took the day off to protest massive layoffs of public sector employees.



Many students join California May 1 marches

BY JOEL BRITTON

SAN FRANCISCO—Dozens of students from the Mission Campus of City College of San Francisco and San Francisco State University formed a feeder march on a rainy May Day here, marching down Mission Street to Dolores Park. The spirited youth chanted and waved signs demanding an end to immigration

raids and deportations.

Several dozen workers from the day laborers center marched in a contingent to Dolores Park. The Drill Team of Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union participated along with workers from the Service Employees International Union, Carpenters Local 22, and other unions. Following a rally in the park,

some 1,500 protesters set off through a light rain to the Civic Center.

About 1,000 people joined the May Day march in San Jose, including student contingents from Santa Clara University, Foothill and De Anza community colleges, San Jose State University, Stanford, and area high schools.

In Watsonville, 80 people protested on May Day outside a branch of Wells Fargo Bank, which organizers said has a stake in the company that builds prisons that house immigrants. Located in the Salinas Valley, Watsonville has been a center of farm worker struggles in years past. A banner carried by members of the student group MEChA at Cal State Monterey declared, “No farm worker has to die!” Every summer farm workers in California die from working without shade, adequate breaks, and water.

Los Angeles: ‘We need legalization, employment’

BY WENDY LYONS

LOS ANGELES—“I’m here to stand up for my people,” said Luis Alfredo Garces Mendoza, a Circle K convenience store worker, as he marched on May Day here with his wife, children, and uncle. “We need legalization, the right to driver’s licenses, employment, and an end to the raids.”

Several thousand marched on May Day in seven different demonstrations. Hundreds of students walked out of Lincoln High School to join them. Raúl Cabañas told the *Militant*, “We came to support our people and to get an education in our schools,” referring to cutbacks by the state government.

Luis, a student from California State University in Los Angeles, said, “People have to unite and make their voices heard. The government is not doing anything. They are just taking advantage of the situation to pay workers low wages. We need legalization for everyone.”

Luis Camacho, who came to the United States under the bracero guest worker program in the 1940s, said he was marching because “we need to strengthen the fight for legalization.”

While many who participated in the marches told the *Militant* they supported full legalization for undocumented workers, march organizers focused on the demand that President Barack Obama initiate “immigration reform.”

The president of the American Apparel garment company, Dov Charney, headed a contingent of workers in “Legalize Los Angeles” T-shirts from his plant, marshaled by plant supervisors, and spoke at a rally. Shortly after he finished speaking, American Apparel workers were organized to head for buses to leave the demonstration.

In 2006 and 2007, workers shut down production at American Apparel on May 1. In order to avoid that this year, the company organized a contingent, as it did last year, to take part in the march. This year they made sure it did not cut into work hours.

“Bosses have no place at May Day or any actions in defense of workers’ rights,” said Eleanor García, Socialist

Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 32nd District and a garment worker. “Bosses at American Apparel are motivated by competition for cheap, skilled labor. They also profit from the second-class status forced on undocumented immigrants.”

García campaigned at the demonstrations for “Legalization now! Stop the raids and deportations!”

May Day Actions for Immigrant Rights

ARIZONA	FLORIDA	MICHIGAN	RHODE ISLAND
Phoenix† 2,000	Fort Pierce 75	Detroit 400	Providence 200
Tucson 600	Immokalee 100		
CALIFORNIA	Miami 200	MINNESOTA	TEXAS
Artesia * 200	Orlando 120	Minneapolis 400	Austin 500
Fresno 200	Tampa 25		Houston 60
Hayward * 3,000	GEORGIA		San Juan 150
Los Angeles 400	Atlanta† 300		San Antonio 300
Oakland 350	ILLINOIS		
Riverside 250	Chicago 3,000		
San Diego 1,500	IOWA		
San Francisco 1,000	Iowa City 200		
San Jose 50	KANSAS		
San Rafael 150	Wichita * 500		
Santa Ana 450	KENTUCKY		
Santa Cruz * 80	Louisville 200		
Santa Rosa 250	MASSACHUSETTS		
Stockton 80	Boston 400		
Watsonville 80	Worcester 250		
CANADA	MICHIGAN	NEW HAMPSHIRE	UTAH
Toronto† 800	Detroit 400	Manchester 60	Salt Lake City 500
COLORADO	MINNESOTA	NEW JERSEY	WASHINGTON
Greeley 600	Minneapolis 400	Newark 300	Bellingham 250
			Seattle 2,500
			Yakima 500
			WISCONSIN
			Madison 700
			Milwaukee 3,000
			DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
			Washington 1,500

**TOTAL = 33,910+
54 CITIES**

The figures are taken from reporters’ counts on the scene, press accounts, and police estimates. Where there was any doubt on the size of the action, the *Militant* used the lower estimate. —the Editor

Caribbean workers march May 1 for jobs, pay raise

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS—Some 20,000 workers, small farmers, and unemployed youth marched May 1 in Guadeloupe, and 1,000 to 2,000 demonstrated in nearby Martinique, where a major rainstorm limited participation.

The Guadeloupe demonstration was organized by the LKP (Alliance Against Exploitation) and the Martinique action by the February 5 Coalition. These are both alliances of trade unions, farmers, and other associations that led the two general strikes against the high cost of living that paralyzed the two French island-colonies in the Caribbean, in February and early March.

The Guadeloupe demonstration took place in Petit-Canal, the town where LKP trade union leader Jacques Bino was buried in February. Bino was shot and killed near one of the barricades set up by strikers and unemployed youth at the high point of the general strike.

The strikes won a 200-euro monthly wage increase (US\$266) for some 40,000 low-paid workers in Guadeloupe and Martinique, as well in French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America, and Réunion, in the Indian Ocean. All are French colonies considered “overseas departments” by Paris.

In Guadeloupe small employers signed the wage agreement known as the Bino Accords while large employers have refused. Some 15 local strikes are continuing in Guadeloupe against those employers who are not abiding by the general agreements.

The LKP called for another general mobilization May 7.

French president Nicolas Sarkozy announced plans to hold general assemblies in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, and French Guiana. But the main trade union alliances in the four colonies all called for a boycott of the assemblies. At the first two assemblies held in Guadeloupe April 14, there were less than 20 participants.

In Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony, tens of

thousands of workers took the day off May 1 and marched in San Juan against the plan of Gov. Luis Fortuño to lay off 30,000 public sector employees. The work stoppage shut down buses and affected utilities, schools, and universities.

The Puerto Rican legislature has adopted the drastic cutbacks legislation. The first phase provides incentives for voluntary separations. That deadline passed with few people taking the offer. This summer the layoffs will begin. The governor has suspended collective bargaining agreements.

Five public sector unions that are unaffiliated with labor federations based in the United States decided to march May Day during working hours. Organizers said that the demonstration drew 40,000 people. Unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO and Change to Win organized a 5:00 p.m. picket that was attended by thousands.

Ron Richards in San Juan contributed to this article.

Chicago rally demands legalization for all

Continued from front page

ers, street vendors, and high school and college students marched behind a lead banner proclaiming the theme of this year’s May Day march: “Without legalization there can be no equal labor rights.” Participants included immigrants from Mexico, Central America, Korea, Poland, and Palestine, as well as workers and youth born in the United States.

“I’m here because they need our help,” explained Jarrell Flowers, an unemployed African American warehouse worker.

Estela García, 43, who works in a printing plant, joined the march to demand an end to the raids. “We’re looking for work, nothing more. Every day you go to work fearing depor-

tation,” she said.

March organizers refused to cancel the demonstration until “every sporting event, movie showing, church service, and class is cancelled,” said Margarita Klein, staff director of Workers United union.

“Workers and immigrants are under attack and city officials can not discourage May Day organizers from exercising their rights to raise issues that affect millions of people,” said the press statement issued by the March 10th Coalition, which organized the event.

Nayeli Vázquez, who marched with a group of 20 students from Glenbrook South High School, carried large colorful monarch butterflies made of cardboard. “Butterflies migrate wherever they need to survive, and they don’t

need papers,” she said.

Seventeen-year-old Arely Ramírez said, “I came to march for the rights of workers. Immigrant workers work many hours and get paid less. My mother works in a meat factory and my father works at a dry cleaners.”

Armando Robles, president of United Electrical Workers Local 1110, spoke at the rally on behalf of former workers at Republic Windows and Doors who staged a weeklong sit-in and won 60 days’ wages and benefits due them under federal law after the plant closed. “We are demanding that President [Barack] Obama implement immigration reform,” he said. “We need legalization so that all workers have the right to be organized for the union to defend our rights.”

Tom Balanoff, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Illinois State Council president, said, “We need a real recovery for working families, and immigrant workers need a road to legalization and a road to citizenship so all workers can recover.”

María Hernández, a laundry worker and member of Workers United, sounded a more urgent note. “Obama, listen to us! Children are being separated from their parents,” she said. “We need amnesty for all, now!”

Carlos Arango, director of Casa Aztlan and a longtime fighter for immigrant rights, also addressed the crowd. “President Obama has built two walls,” he said. “A physical wall on the border and a virtual wall with computers.” He was referring to the government’s E-Verify online data system that verifies a worker’s immigration status.

No elected officials spoke from the platform this year, in sharp contrast with last year’s action, which was addressed by Chicago mayor Richard Daley among others. The Chicago police insisted that the march step off half an hour earlier than scheduled, preventing hundreds from joining it.

Laura Anderson, Maggie Trowe, and John Hawkins contributed to this article.

Half million march in Havana for May Day



Reuters

More than half a million people poured into the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana May 1 to celebrate this international workers’ holiday. The rally was marked by a celebration of 50 years since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution and the 70th anniversary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers.

Former Cuban president and central leader of the revolution Fidel Castro commented on the celebration in his newspaper column. Explaining some history about the origins of May Day and the connection to Cuba’s socialist revolution, Castro referred to Washington’s 50-year campaign to destroy the Cuban Revolution.

“Today they are prepared to pardon us if we resign ourselves to return to the fold as slaves, who after knowing freedom accept anew the whip and yoke,” he wrote. “The adversary should never have the illusion that Cuba will surrender.”

—BEN JOYCE

Immigrant workers put stamp on actions

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Tens of thousands marched for immigrant rights May 1 and 2 across the United States and in Canada. As they have for the last four years, immigrant workers put their stamp on the actions with their call for “legalization now!” March organizers in many cities attempted to restrict the political message to asking President Barack Obama for “reform” of immigration law.

Some 2,500 marched in Seattle; 2,000 in Salem, Oregon; and 1,500 in Portland, Oregon, reports Edwin Fruit. There were contingents from the United Food and Commercial Workers, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Service Employees International Union, UNITE-HERE, and the Portland Restaurant Workers Association.

Some 250 people turned out in Bellingham, Washington, the site of the first factory raid by immigration cops under the Obama administration. One of the workers arrested in that raid at the Yamato engine plant addressed the rally. The United Farm Workers (UFW) and Western Washington University stu-

dents both had contingents.

About 500 people marched in Yakima, Washington. The Chicano rights student organization MEChA from Yakima Community College; UFW; and Maestros Unidos, a teachers group in the American Federation of Teachers, organized contingents. Fruit reports that 40 counterdemonstrators from the anti-immigrant and rightist Minuteman outfit showed up, some wearing masks blaming Mexican workers for the spread of the swine flu virus.

The National Alliance for Filipino Concerns had a large banner at the New York City action demanding “Legalization for all” that attracted workers from many different countries.

Some 150 people marched in Hempstead, New York. The Hempstead police have stepped up harassment of day laborers when they stand in the Home Depot parking lot waiting to get hired. “There’s one cop who drives so close to us he almost runs over our feet,” said Julio, who is from Honduras and asked that his last name not be used.

Neither he nor Ricardo, born in El Sal-

vador, like Obama’s plan to make immigrant workers pay a heavy fine as a step toward gaining legalization. They point out that the cops won’t let them work.

Six hundred workers and others marched in Greeley, Colorado, where immigration cops raided the Swift meatpacking plant in 2006, arresting hundreds of workers. Horace Kerr reports that “despite calls for a counter-mobilization by former Colorado State representative Tom Tancredo, and the Minuteman Web site, ‘contras’ were limited to eight in number.”

A contingent of Black construction workers joined the May Day march in Newark, New Jersey. The majority of the 300 marchers were Latino day laborers from northern and central New Jersey, writes Mike Fitzsimmons.

In Toronto, more than 800 rallied May 2 to demand the Canadian government stop deportations of immigrants and grant legal status to all, reports Annette Kouri. On April 2 and 3 the Canada Border Services Agency jailed more than 100 people for alleged immigration violations.

Bolshevik Revolution opened politics to youth, workers

Printed below is an excerpt from Problems of Everyday Life, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. The title includes articles on social and cultural issues written by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky in the Soviet press in the years immediately following the October 1917 revolution. The piece below is titled "Young people, study politics!" It's from an April 29, 1924, speech on the fifth anniversary celebration of the Communist Young Workers' Hostels. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

Comrades, not long ago, we released from the Red Army on indefinite leave the class of 1901. On this occasion we carried out in a number of places an inquiry among the men being discharged, questioning them as to what they had learned in the Red Army. From among the answers they gave, one in particular struck my attention, a very brief and expressive answer. I have already quoted it at several meetings. One of the Red Army comrades answered thus: "I have learned about the machine gun and about politics."

Remember that answer, Comrades! It is a very good one; in my opinion the



Red Army conference held in Petrograd, March 1921. Workers and peasants in the Red Army learn not only how to operate machine guns, but about politics, about each soldier's role as a revolutionary fighter, a conscious citizen, wrote Trotsky.

thing could not be better put. As a revolutionary soldier he is obliged to know, as Suvorov said long ago, his military art; he must know his weapon and how to use it, otherwise he will not be a soldier. In this case, evidently, we are dealing with a machine-gunner, whose weapon is the machine gun. "I have learned about the machine gun, and besides that, I have learned about politics," he says. What does it mean when he says that he has learned about politics? It means that he has learned to understand why he was given a machine gun. So long as he only knows about the machine gun, he is just the slave of the weapon, and cannon fodder in somebody else's hands; but when he knows what purpose under certain conditions that machine gun is to fulfill in the Red Army, he is a revolutionary fighter, a conscious citizen.

This applies not only to a soldier in the revolutionary army, but to every kind of service in our workers' and peasants' country. "What have you learned?" we must ask the young proletarian when he leaves the factory training school. "I have learned about the hammer, the pincers, the plane, and about politics." And about politics!

You know that in bourgeois countries there is a hypocritical and base notion that the army and the younger generation stand outside politics. This very day, in another connection, I have been looking through Volumes 2 and 3 of Comrade Lenin's works. (This is in general, Comrades, a very useful occupation—

whether one has any special reason for doing it or not—for everybody who has the opportunity to undertake it.)

It so happens that my eye fell upon a number of Lenin's plain, extremely sharp and merciless observations regarding this base and hypocritical conception about the younger generation being outside politics. We know that the army is in all countries an instrument of politics, or rather, that it serves political ends. When it is said that the army is outside politics, that means: you, soldier, master your machine gun—politics, however, will be looked after by somebody else on your behalf, i.e., obviously, by the ruling class. The bourgeoisie carries out a division of labor. Politics is in its charge; the workers and peasants in the army are cannon fodder, slaves to the machines of destruction. And it is exactly the same so far as the younger generation is concerned, the young workers and peasants, that is. Politics fills the air; *it is not possible to live outside of politics, without politics, any more than one can live without air.*

But the bourgeoisie cannot reveal its political face to the young people. It cannot say: there you are, the twelve- or thirteen-year-old son of a worker; you have been born into the world in order that, after serving an apprenticeship to some trade, you may go into a factory and there to the end of your days create with your sweat, blood, and marrow, surplus value for the lords of life, the bourgeoisie, who, from this surplus val-

ue, will create its bourgeois culture, its luxury, art, and learning for its children. The bourgeoisie cannot openly expound such politics to the young workers. It puts over its politics by way of circumlocution and allegories, imperceptibly or half-perceptibly, through its schools, its churches, and its press. And this work of the imperceptible bourgeois education of young people, or rather, the education of young workers and peasants in the interests of the bourgeois state, is concealed behind the slogan: "the younger generation is outside politics." And that is why Vladimir Ilyich so relentlessly and implacably fought against this base hypocrisy.

Young people live in society, they are born into definite conditions, they step forward into life's arena in particular historical circumstances, and the sooner these youngsters open their eyes to the world around them, the better and more profoundly they grasp the conditions in which they live, the easier their path through life will prove to be.

You young comrades are living in a workers' and peasants' state. This does not mean that your path through life is a very easy one in the years of your apprenticeship. But I think, nevertheless, that it is already considerably better than it was for the elder generation of the working class in their apprenticeship years. I don't know whether anybody in our country has collected together the works of literature—Chekhov's stories, for instance—which deal with the years of apprenticeship, the gloomiest in the life of the working masses. I think that all these stories, sketches, and memoirs of the years of apprenticeship through which every worker has passed, should be collected and published and made one of the reference books for young people. *It is necessary to learn to hate the old order that we have overthrown but that we are still far, far from having got rid of.* It has bequeathed to us monstrous deposits of ignorance, inertness, crudeness, vulgarity; and all this still surrounds us. And it is for you young comrades to sweep away these deposits. That is why it is very important that the work of mastering the hammer, the pincers, and all the other tools and instruments of production must go hand in hand with the mastering of politics.

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Free ‘Ft. Dix 5’ and Javed Iqbal!

In two separate “terrorism” frame-up cases in April, federal judges handed down stiff sentences against immigrants aimed at intimidating anyone who would dare express views that the U.S. government opposes.

The government’s case against three Albanians, a Jordanian, and a Turkish immigrant—known as the Fort Dix Five—was built on entrapment by paid informants, who themselves were threatened with deportation. It was these very informants who encouraged the men to watch al-Qaeda videos and pressed them to take action—which they never did. They were, nevertheless, found guilty of “conspiracy.” The informants secretly taped hours of their conversations with the defendants.

All of the Fort Dix Five were denied bail. At trial the prosecuting attorney asserted that under conspiracy charges the government need not prove the defendants had a plan to attack—only intent. “Just talk is powerful evidence,” he said.

Four of the five were handed life sentences; the judge added on 30 years for three of the men. The fifth was sentenced to 33 years.

In the second case a Pakistani immigrant, Javed

Iqbal, plea-bargained in the face of a possible 15-year sentence for broadcasting satellite programs from a TV station in Lebanon. Al-Manar station is part of the Arab State Broadcasting Union and its Web site can be easily accessed in several languages. Among the many programs broadcast by the station are speeches by leaders of Hezbollah, a bourgeois party in Lebanon that has members in parliament.

In sentencing Iqbal to nearly six years, the judge claimed he was not being prosecuted for the content of the broadcast but for providing “material support” to a station on the government’s “terrorist” list and selling its programming to customers in the United States.

These attacks on democratic rights and the use of frame-up “conspiracy” charges are part of the government’s broader attack on the rights of all working people. It is part of the rulers’ preparation for the resistance they sense will inevitably deepen inside the United States as the capitalist economic crisis bears down on workers, farmers, and other working people.

The sentences against the Fort Dix Five and Javed Iqbal are a blow to all working people. We should demand their freedom.

Chrysler files bankruptcy, slashes jobs

Continued from front page

ada, and Mexico will be idled for the duration of bankruptcy proceedings, which the company projects will be several months.

During its first day in bankruptcy court Chrysler also announced the elimination of 5,000 jobs, with four plants to be closed by the end of next year—in Sterling Heights, Michigan; St. Louis; Twinsburg, Ohio; and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Through these proceedings Chrysler is seeking to reemerge in joint partnership with the Italian auto company Fiat. This is the first bankruptcy filing by a major U.S. automobile company since Studebaker in 1933.

The May 2 *New York Times* presented the concessions by the union in glowing terms, saying that if the company survives, for the union this could turn out to be “the Cadillac of bankruptcies.”

In the concessionary agreement approved by the union, half of the \$10 billion Chrysler owes to the retirees’ health-care fund will be paid in almost worthless stock instead of cash. In return, the union will own 55 percent of the company and get a seat on the board of directors.

The union also agreed to cuts in supplemental unemployment benefits, suspension of cost-of-living pay increases, and limits on overtime pay.

“I’m very comfortable,” commented UAW president Ronald Gettelfinger to National Public Radio. “It’s not like we’re going into this bankruptcy fighting with Chrysler and Fiat and the U.S. Treasury. We’re going in there in lockstep to put our agreements in place.”

‘Ft. Dix Five’ handed harsh sentences

Continued from front page

sent criminal people to innocents.”

A fifth defendant, Serdar Tatar, a manager at a convenience store, was sentenced to 33 years. The judge said Tartar was “the only one I have any hope for rehabilitation,” reported the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Just prior to sentencing, Tartar told the judge, “I am not an extremist, anything close to a radical. I’m a patriot. I love my country.” He added that his goal was to become a cop.

At the trial, which ended December 23, the prosecution presented no evidence of illegal acts and the defendants were acquitted of the charge of attempted murder. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hammer told the court that under conspiracy charges the government does not have to prove the defendants agreed on a plan to attack the base, only that there was “intent.” “Just talk is powerful evidence,” he said.

The defendants were never charged with a crime

of terrorism. However, at sentencing prosecutors asked the judge for a “terrorism enhancement,” boosting the sentences to life terms.

Omar, who the FBI recruited as an informant in 2006, had been found guilty of bank fraud and was facing immigration charges. The second informant, Besnik Bakalli, was wanted for a shooting in Albania and awaiting deportation. For their efforts Omar was paid more than \$240,000 and Bakalli about \$15,000. The two snitches spent 15 months cajoling and urging on the young men while taping hundreds of hours of their conversations.

The families of the defendants have been devastated. All have lost their businesses and have lost or on the verge of losing their homes. Ferik Duka, father of the Duka brothers, told the press that the families would continue to make their case. “I’m not going to stop, even if I have to go to President Obama or the Congress just to see justice.”

UK auto workers

Continued from front page

il you don’t leave until the money’s in the bank,” said John Maguire, UNITE convenor (shop steward) at the Belfast plant. “When we do go, we’ll walk out of here with our heads held high and our dignity intact.” UNITE is the union that organizes workers in the three plants.

As workers discussed the offer they continued to build support for their fight. A delegation of workers from the Visteon plant in Enfield joined the annual May Day march through central London.

Workers at Enfield initially occupied the plant in March but withdrew a few days later to avoid a confrontation with the cops. One of those in the delegation, Cindy Rahmah, said that Visteon “assumed we wouldn’t fight and that this was the end when they announced the job cuts.”

“I never took notice of much before this, but now I’ve learnt that because we fought we’ve forced them to negotiate,” said Tom Fox, another Enfield worker.

Describing Visteon’s initial decision to declare bankruptcy and refuse to pay the workers any redundancy pay, Ray Dixon explained, “What happened to us could have happened to any other worker. They treated us like criminals—but they were the ones who stole our money.”

“We’ve lost the jobs, but this is a good financial settlement for the majority of the workers,” explained John Maguire from Belfast. “Unfortunately 23 Belfast workers and 25 English workers who were recently hired won’t receive this.”

“We have had tremendous support from local unions and from local politicians. Now we’ll need to find ways to press the company for our pensions,” he added.

Workers at the Belfast plant were keen to explain to *Militant* reporters how workers who are Catholic and those who are Protestant fought side by side during the dispute. The British rulers have sought for decades to keep workers in North Ireland divided.

“They underestimated us. Our fight has won us a reasonable redundancy offer which should put us on a minimum of £30,000,” explained Joe Monte, a worker at the Enfield plant (£1 = US\$1.50). Monte was speaking at a Militant Labor Forum in London that he attended with five other Visteon workers.

“We voted 100 percent to accept the new offer. If we hadn’t taken a stand we would have gotten nothing,” said Rob Fitch, a worker and shop steward at the Basildon plant. “Fighting the company was forced on us—and the way the economy is going, other workers will have to face this.”

Up to 40 workers at a former Visteon plant in Swansea, South Wales, walked off the job following the April 28 sacking of Rob Williams, the UNITE convenor at the plant, according to the *South Wales Evening Post*. Williams had visited the Visteon occupation in Belfast to offer support.

Bob Crow, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union, visited the picket line at Basildon April 27. He said that Visteon had moved the plant’s production to the Czech Republic, complaining the move was one more example of the European Union “wanting to turn Europe into a neo-liberal free trade area,” *The Morning Star* wrote. Opposition to Visteon’s decision to move work to other countries has been a feature of union leaders’ protectionist stance throughout the dispute, weakening the workers’ ability to reach for support to other workers across borders.

Some of the Enfield workers are planning to participate in the national March for Jobs on May 16 called by UNITE in Birmingham.

Celia Pugh in London contributed to this article.

Correction

The article in the May 11 issue of the *Militant* titled “Swine flu hysteria: rulers tighten borders, expand gov’t intrusions” stated the virus had “reportedly killed more than 150 people in Mexico.” That was the number of suspected deaths caused by the virus, according to the *New York Times*. There were 20 confirmed deaths at the time in Mexico.