

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Our History Still Being Written' shows class character of Cuban Revolution
N.Y. event promotes book by Chinese-Cuban generals
—PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 18

MAY 8, 2006

Calls for Rumsfeld's ouster show factionalism in military

BY SAM MANUEL
AND PAUL PEDERSON

Six retired senior generals—all of whom either served in Iraq during or after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion or were involved in planning it—have publicly called for the resignation of U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld. These calls, and the broader debate in military circles they have generated, are another example of the growing factionalism in the officer corps of the U.S. armed forces.

The factionalism is fueled by the drive by weighty sections of the ruling class, led by the Department of Defense, to carry out a transformation of the military into a leaner and more agile force trained for combat to carry out a “long war” across the globe in the coming decades to safeguard U.S. imperial interests.

A host of liberal and some conservative politicians and commentators have lined up behind the disaffected officers. Some middle-class radicals who oppose the war on Iraq have joined the chorus too.

Other top military officers have come out publicly to defend Rumsfeld. These

Continued on page 3

Mass protests against monarchy sweep Nepal

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

April 25—Chanting, “We want a republic, we don’t want the king anymore,” 100,000 people marched through the streets of the capital city of Kathmandu April 22. Defying the cops and troops and a shoot-on-sight curfew, they were joined by protesters in cities and towns across Nepal. The Himalayan nation has been shaken by demonstrations and a general strike since the beginning of the month.

Three days later, on the eve of yet larger protests nationwide, King Gyanendra, under heavy pressure from the governments of the United States and India, gave in to a key demand of the seven-party opposition to reinstate parliament. In response, the opposition called off the planned demonstrations and chose former prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala of the Nepali Congress Party to lead a new government.

Popular hatred for the monarchy has not diminished, however. Protesters in the streets, who have been chanting “Hang Gyanendra,” pressed opposition leaders to stick to their promise to force a vote on the constitution. The Maoist

Continued on page 3

Immigration cops raid company, arrest 1,187 workers, deport 275

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON—Immigration police operating under authority of the Department of Homeland Security conducted raids April 19 against IFCO Systems of North America at 45 worksites in 26 states. The Houston-based firm is a nationwide pallet manufacturer, whose parent company is in the Netherlands. The action occurred as Congress prepared to reconvene to continue debate on an immigration “reform” bill.

The department’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 1,187 workers in what Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff called “the largest single worksite enforcement operation” in U.S. history. ICE agents working together with the Justice Department raided IFCO operations in Texas, California, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Georgia, Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois, and 15 other states. More workers were rounded up on the job in this one action than were arrested during worksite raids in all of 2005.

Criminal charges were also filed against seven current or former lower-level IFCO managers of conspiring “to transport and harbor illegal workers,” the *Financial Times* reported. They could face a maximum of 10-year prison sentences and fines. No senior company executives were arrested.

Speaking to the media the day after the raids, Chertoff asserted, “Employers and workers alike should be on notice that the status quo has changed.”

The workers, predominantly from

Continued on page 6



ICE Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrest workers at IFCO, a pallet manufacturer, April 19. ICE provided no location for the photo.

Bush: ‘No mass deportations’ Clinton: ‘Build wall along border’

BY RÓGER CALERO

The debate in U.S. ruling circles on immigration “reform” is taking new twists and turns in the midst of ongoing mobilizations for immigrant rights across the country.

President George Bush said April 24

he doesn’t support mass deportations of undocumented immigrants. He reiterated his proposal for a “guest worker” program to keep the flow of immigrant labor and put it more under the control of employers and the government. And he indicated he is favorable to measures being discussed in the Senate to regularize the status of the approximately 12 million undocumented workers in the United States over time and with conditions such as hefty fines.

In an interview published in the New York Daily News two days earlier, Sen. Hillary Clinton, a Democratic Party presidential hopeful, outlined proposals to the right of Bush, such as building a wall along much of the U.S. border

Continued on page 7

Immigrant rights rallies persist in U.S.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEWARK, New Jersey—Some 1,500 people rallied and demonstrated here April 23 in the “March for Peace and Liberty of Immigrants.” The Immigrants Rights Defense Committee of New Jersey called the action. A number of office holders addressed the rally at Lincoln Park before the march, as well as Newark mayoral candidates Cory Booker, a Democrat, and Nancy Rosenstock, running on the Socialist Workers Party ticket. “I understand your struggle and the challenge of being an immigrant,” said New Jersey Attorney General Zulima Farber. Rosenstock called for amnesty and immediate and unconditional permanent residency for all undocumented immigrants.

In San Francisco, about 10,000 people marched the same day from Dolores Park to the federal building, reported the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which headlined its article, “10,000 resume the battle cry... archbishop denounces enforcement-

Continued on page 9



Protesters rally April 19 at immigration detention facility in Broadview, Illinois, against raid on IFCO in Chicago.

Getty Images/Scott Olson

Australian troops intervene in Solomons

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—The government of Australia rapidly deployed more troops and police to the Solomon Islands April 19, following anti-government protests in Honiara, the capital of the small South Pacific island country.

An initial force of 110 soldiers and 70 cops joined the 282 Australian Federal

Continued on page 2

Also Inside:

- Cuba expands medical aid program in East Timor 2
- Native peoples in Canada: ‘Honor our land claims!’ 3
- Two more coal miners die in Kentucky; year’s toll 26 4
- How U.S. immigration rose to new levels, shifted from Europe to Asia, Americas 6
- How May Day started in U.S. 8

Australian troops in Solomons

Continued from front page
Police (AFP) already there as part of the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). This is an Australian-led force deployed since July 2003 to “re-establish law and order.”

Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer said that more troops were on standby and that the police force would remain in the Solomons for “a considerable while.” The government of New Zealand also announced it would send an additional 25 army personnel and 30 police officers to back up its RAMSI contingent of 38 cops.

Protests erupted outside the Solomons parliament house April 18 following the announcement of the election of Snyder Rini as prime minister. Angry demonstrators turned against RAMSI cops and tried to storm the government building.

Peter Kenilorea, the speaker of the Solomons parliament, blamed Australian police officers for aggravating unrest by firing tear gas at protesters.

Some of the protesters carried out reactionary attacks against Chinese businesses and others in the Chinese community. Most of the buildings in Chinatown—the commercial center of Honiara—were ransacked and burned. Some 500 Chinese residents sought shelter at a police club hall.

Canberra used the violence as a pretext to step up its intervention and control of the government in Honiara.

The Australian government’s stance may have also fueled the climate that led to the attacks on the Chinese in the Solomons. According to the April 26 *Sydney Morning Herald*, Downer warned the governments of China and Taiwan to stay out of politics in the Solomons and allow members of its

parliament to choose a prime minister free of “inappropriate incentives.” He gave credence to unsubstantiated allegations in the media that the Chinese and Taiwanese governments had bribed deputies to vote for Rini. Downer made these remarks the day Rini resigned as parliament was about to pass a motion of no confidence in his regime.

Rini was deputy prime minister in the government elected in 2001, headed by Allan Kemakeza, leader of the People’s Alliance Party. The Australian-led RAMSI intervention of some 2,000 troops in 2003 gave backing to his administration to restore stability in the Solomons, and to disband the rival militia groups that had been fighting since a civil war broke out in 1998.

Allegations of corruption against Kemakeza and Rini were widespread leading up to the April 5 general election. Only half the members of parliament retained their seats. Rini was elected prime minister by a narrow margin in a parliamentary vote over opposition candidate Job Tausinga. (The Solomons prime minister is decided by a vote by the 50 members of parliament.)

Opposition leaders accused Rini of bribing deputies to vote for him. On April 19, some 2,000 people marched



Above: Australian soldiers interrogate residents April 20 in Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands. Inset: Location of Solomons in south Pacific.

on Government House, demanding that Rini resign.

Australia’s prime minister, John Howard, said it was his government’s responsibility to use Australia’s military and economic clout to keep order in any “potentially failing states” in the Pacific. “Obviously New Zealand and other smaller countries have to make a contribution,” he added.

The Solomon Islands is a former British colony that won independence

in 1978. The rulers of Australia now regard it as “in their back yard.”

Howard announced April 21 that his administration had dispatched another 110 troops to Honiara. Justifying this decision, he told Southern Cross Radio, “In these situations it’s better to have more than less.” He added, “One of the reasons why our initial intervention worked very effectively was that it was very big and it sent a very strong message.”

Cuba expands medical program in East Timor

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Cuban president Fidel Castro announced in December that 300 additional Cuban doctors will be traveling to the South East Asian nation of Timor Leste (formerly East Timor) to offer medical assistance. They will join 60 of their compatriots already there.

Cuba has also provided more than 800 scholarships for young people

from Timor Leste to study at Havana’s Latin American Medical School and has helped set up a medical school in Dili, the nation’s capital.

“We have many health problems—malnutrition, malaria, TB—from being colonized for too long,” said Ego Lemos, a member of the newly formed Timor Leste–Cuba solidarity group, in an interview with this reporter during a visit to New Zealand in March. “We want the Cuban doctors because they’re not just coming to make money but to contribute to other third world countries.”

Cuban teachers have begun work on setting up a program to teach people in Timor to read and write, in a country where 56 percent of men and 43 percent of women are illiterate.

East Timor was a colony of Portugal until 1975 and was then occupied by Indonesia until 1999. A United Nations force, led by troops from Australia with

significant backing from New Zealand, then took over until independence was finally won in 2002.

It is the poorest country in Asia, with the majority of the population of 900,000 living as subsistence farmers. A recent UN report showed that half the population lack safe drinking water, 60 out of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday, life expectancy is only 55 years of age, and the per capita income of \$1 a day is declining.

In 1999 there were only 35 doctors left in the country. Cuba’s aim is to assist in reaching a goal of one doctor per 1,000 inhabitants.

Timor Leste is rich in oil and gas deposits off its shores. However, the Australian government has for years controlled the distribution of profits from the extraction of these resources, and in January pressured Timor’s government to sign a maritime treaty perpetuating this ongoing theft.

THE MILITANT

‘The only paper I trust to present facts’

“The ‘Militant’ is the only paper I can trust to present the facts. Workers can count on the ‘Militant’ to be on their side and tell the truth about their struggles. I help distribute it because it helps workers know how to fight and win.”

—Martin Santiago
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Martin Santiago is a hospital worker and member of AFSCME District 1199C.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITYSTATEZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATIONPHONE

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

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

VOL. 70/NO. 18

Closing news date: April 26, 2006

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins, Martin Koppel, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and June.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$35 to above address.

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

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send \$65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$50 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

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

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

France: Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik.

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

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

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

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

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

Protests sweep Nepal

Continued from front page
insurgents dismissed the king's action as a maneuver to save the regime, while the opposition coalition said it would try to draw the guerrillas into the formation of a new government.

In February 2005 Gyanendra dissolved the government, declared a state of emergency, and assumed direct power. He called the move necessary to defeat the Maoists who have waged a decade-long guerrilla war and who control much of Nepal's countryside. With the regime wobbling in face of expanding protests, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) signed a "12-point understanding" in November with the seven-party bourgeois opposition. The accord calls for an alliance of forces opposed to "autocratic monarchy" and for elections

to a constituent assembly leading to "absolute democracy."

Nepal is an agricultural country of 28 million people in the mountainous Himalayan region between China and India. Long dominated by British and then U.S. imperialism, it is one of the poorest and least economically developed in the world. Industry is limited largely to small-scale processing of jute, sugar, and oilseed. India accounts for nearly half of Nepal's imports and exports.

With hydropower largely undeveloped, only 40 percent of the population has access to electricity. Most working people must rely on firewood and animal dung for energy, leading to widespread deforestation. Telecommunications are poor.

Nepal is a capitalist country with



AFP/Getty Images/Brian Sokol

April 19 rally in Kathmandu, Nepal, during sustained protests against the monarchy.

semifeudal relations in much of the countryside. A Hindu-based caste system institutionalizes discrimination against millions consigned to

dalit ("untouchable") status. In addition, many Nepalese belong to various oppressed national minorities.

Periodic upsurges in democratic struggles have forced concessions from Nepal's monarchy over the decades. Protests in 1990 led King Birendra to agree to a new constitution and parliamentary elections, won by the Nepali Congress Party, the main bourgeois party. In subsequent elections the Congress Party and the Communist Party of Nepal—the largest Stalinist organization, which was largely pro-Moscow in the past—gained the most votes, heading various coalition governments until Gyanendra assumed dictatorial powers.

As opposition to the monarchy grew, the king unleashed savage repression in the name of crushing the Maoist insurgency. With infusions of U.S. military aid, the regime has nearly doubled the size of the Nepalese Royal Army to 78,000. More than 13,000 people have been killed in the past decade, most at the hands of the army and police in the rural areas.

The monarchy has become increasingly shaky. Gyanendra became king after the previous monarch, Birendra, was killed in 2001 along with much of the royal family in a shooting spree by the crown prince, who also killed himself.

The Maoist forces have carried out
Continued on page 9

Factionalism grows in the U.S. military

Continued from front page
include Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, the current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; former joint chiefs chairman Gen. Richard Meyers; and Thomas Franks, the general who led the invasion of Iraq. The White House has issued a statement supporting Rumsfeld as well.

The six generals have focused their recent criticisms on the Pentagon's tactics in fighting the war in Iraq. At the root of the argument, however, is the historic shift in military strategy, order of battle, and global deployment of Washington's armed forces. As a resolution of the Socialist Workers Party, adopted at its 2005 convention put it, "In seeking to accelerate transformation, the U.S. rulers are aggressively working to break through the conservative bias of the imperialist officer caste formed during the Cold War and marked especially by their political experience during the war in Vietnam. This determined push is sparking the most bitter factionalism within the officer corps of the armed forces—and of the intelligence services—since the opening years of the U.S. Civil War in the mid-nineteenth century. Many within the bureaucracies of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and CIA stand to lose (or win) not only promotions but control over big resources." The resolution, titled "Their Transformation and Ours," is published in issue 12 of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

"The Army finds itself severely undermanned," Gen. Paul Eaton complained in an opinion column in the March 19 *New York Times*. "Only Gen. Eric Shinseki, the Army chief of staff when President Bush was elected, had the courage to challenge the downsizing plans." A retired Army general, Eaton is a member of the current anti-Bush/Rumsfeld faction. He commanded the training of Iraqi security forces in the year after the fall of Baghdad.

Shinseki was at the center of the resistance to many of Rumsfeld's reorganization plans within the Army. He fought to defend the \$11 billion Crusader heavy artillery program, built on Cold War military strategy, which Rumsfeld axed. And he resisted Pentagon efforts to scale down the size of the military in favor of leaner, lighter, and combat-hardened forces.

Rumsfeld responded to his critics in an April 18 press conference. "We've had the largest base-closing effort I think in history," he said, "bringing forces home from Europe and from Korea." He pointed out that Washington's elite combat

troops, the Special Operations Forces, "have been dramatically increased and given new authorities." He pointed to the cancellation of major weapons systems, which, he said, "caused a major uproar."

"Every one of those changes...has met resistance," Rumsfeld said. "People like things the way they are, and so when you make a change like that, somebody's not going to like it."

Liberal commentators who have lined up behind the attacks on Rumsfeld have often done so to argue this is necessary to fight the next wars U.S. imperialism needs to conduct to defend its interests. Senior *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman said in the paper's April 19 edition that Rumsfeld must go so a new face at the Pentagon's helm can lead a war against Iran more effectively. "I have zero confidence in this administration's ability to manage a complex military strike against Iran, let alone the military and diplomatic aftershocks," Friedman wrote.

Conservative columnist William Kristol, who has argued that Washington should prepare a military assault against Iran, has also pushed for replacing Rumsfeld.

Left joins fray

Some middle-class radicals who oppose the war in Iraq have sought to give a positive spin to the actions of the dissident generals. Among them are leaders of the Communist Party USA. The April 20 *People's Weekly World*, which expresses the views of the CPUSA, published an article by Tim Wheeler, headlined, "Generals stick by demand: 'Fire Rumsfeld.'" Wheeler said it was notable that of the generals who called for Rumsfeld's resignation, "none has recanted in the face of White House and Pentagon attempts to intimidate them."

The article tried to put an antiwar veneer on one of these officers, Marine Lieut. Gen. Gregory Newbold, after acknowledging that most of them object to how the Pentagon has led the war, not to the war itself. Wheeler quoted retired Army Col. Dan Smith, now an adviser to the pacifist Friends Committee on National Legislation, saying, "Newbold comes as close as any to a rejection of the need for a war with Iraq."

But whatever disagreements he might have had on how the war was conducted, Newbold is for keeping the troops in Iraq. In a column in the April 9 *Time* magazine, Newbold said, "I am not opposed to war. I would gladly have traded

my general's stars for a captain's bars to lead our troops into Afghanistan.... And while I don't accept the stated rationale for invading Iraq, my view—at the moment—is that a precipitous withdrawal would be a mistake."

Others have argued that open factionalism in the military sets a dangerous precedent for the rulers. An editorial in the April 18 *Washington Post* said the rebellion by these officers "threatens the essential democratic principle of military subordination to civilian control—the more so because a couple of the officers claim they are speaking for some still on active duty."

"Will the rest of the generals, retired or serving, now have to declare themselves as to which camp they belong?" asked conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer in the April 21 *Investor's Business Daily*. "It is precisely this kind of division that our tradition of military deference to democratically elected civilian superiors was meant to prevent. Today it suits the antiwar left to applaud the rupture of that tradition. But it is a disturbing and very dangerous precedent that even the left will one day regret."

Native peoples protest in Ontario, demand Ottawa honor land claims

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO AND JOHN STEELE

CALEDONIA, Ontario—Native people in Ontario and Quebec organized solidarity actions in response to an April 20 pre-dawn raid by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The cops were seeking to enforce a court injunction to end a "land reclamation" occupation by the Six Nations Confederacy on a housing project being built on their land. Members of the Six Nations pushed back the cops, maintaining the occupation, and swelling their ranks in the process.

Near Montreal, Mohawks from the town of Kahnawake stopped traffic on a major bridge as they hoisted solidarity flags on the structure. Others from the Tyendinaga reserve near the town of Belleville halted at least 12 freight and passenger trains on the Canadian National rail lines between Montreal and Toronto for more than 24 hours.

The occupation of the multimillion-dollar Douglas Creek Estates, owned by Henco Industries, began February 28. The Six Nations Confederacy Chiefs are demanding a moratorium on construc-

tion on the site and discussions with the federal government to settle their historic claims to this land. The chiefs insist that the site is part of a large parcel of land given to them by the British colonizers in 1784. Provincial government officials claim the land was sold in 1841. The Six Nations reserve now occupies only 5 percent of the original 950,000-acre grant.

The Native people will stay on the land in dispute "as long as it takes," said Confederacy spokesperson Janie Jamieson, who reported to CBC News World that the cops had beaten and pepper-sprayed Six Nation defenders. CH News reported the provincial police has a force of 1,000 on the scene, including riot cops on standby. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada's federal cops, have also moved into the area to reinforce the OPP.

Six Nations Confederacy member Carole Bonberry told the *Militant* that now "for the first time since 1924 when the Confederacy chiefs were forced out by the Indian Act, representatives of the federal and provincial governments are sitting down to talk with representatives of the traditional longhouse government."

‘Militant’ defense campaign prepares for protracted fight

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA, April 25—For more than a year and a half, defenders of labor and political rights have waged a defense campaign to counter a harassment lawsuit by C.W. Mining, the owners of the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. Defendants are 16 miners who fought to unionize, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) that aided them, and the *Militant*, which covered and extended editorial support to their fight.

The miners, overwhelmingly immigrants from Mexico, were locked out by the bosses in 2003, after resisting dangerous conditions, demanding better wages and dignity, and protesting harassment and firings of union supporters. The workers transformed the lockout into a strike, which lasted nearly 10 months, during which they won widespread solidarity in the United States and abroad. As a result they won reinstatement and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) set a union representation election. In December 2004, on the eve of that vote, the company fired dozens of miners on the pretext they did not have proper legal documents. At the same time, the mine bosses launched their lawsuit.

The stakes in this case have become clearer recently as millions of immigrant workers and their supporters have demonstrated for legalization. The right of workers to speak out about job conditions, organize for a union, and protest for demands like amnesty without risking their jobs or deportation have been at the heart of the struggle of these miners and of the fight to defeat the C.W. Mining suit.

Because of the increasingly protracted character of the case, the Militant Fighting Fund, which has helped the *Militant* raise the funds to defend itself and publicized the case of all defendants, has renamed itself the Militant Defense Fund.

The defendants face a variety of

charges, including defaming the bosses, conspiracy to defraud the company, and violating federal racketeering and labor laws. The UMWA is providing counsel for the union and the 16 miners.

At a court hearing in February, Judge Dee Benson declined to rule on the motions by the *Militant*, the 16 miners, and the UMWA to dismiss the case, while he dismissed similar defamation charges against the two main dailies in Utah. The judge raised the possibility of “discovery,” which would open up the defendants to subpoenas to produce re-

More dailies grant anonymity to interviewees

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY—Only a month after criticizing one of this city’s Spanish-language newspapers for using a pen name in a byline, the *Salt Lake Tribune* has itself begun granting anonymity to immigrants who are interviewed by its reporters. “To protect the identity of undocumented immigrants, only first names are used in this story,” read the editor’s note at the head of an article on an immigration raid in Tooele, Utah, in the daily’s April 22 edition.

The article, “Fear of unknown: The other side of crackdown,” is one of many such stories recently written by Jennifer Sanchez for the *Tribune*. Sanchez also authored a March 17 *Tribune* article, “Spanish-language journal uses fake bylines,” attacking the weekly *Mundo Hispano*. “In a democratic society, with guaranteed freedom of the press,” Sanchez wrote at the time, *Mundo Hispano*’s use of a pen name was “unethical.”

The practice of papers granting anonymity to workers and others for fear of being victimized when speaking out is becoming more common—an implicit admission that freedom of speech is

cords and lengthy interrogations, draining them of time and resources.

To build support, the Defense Fund has prepared updated literature, including a new fact sheet outlining the stakes in this case for working people. These will be posted soon on the *Militant*’s web site, *www.themilitant.com*.

The Militant Defense Fund has also set a goal of winning 300 new endorsers between now and June 1, coinciding with an effort by *Militant* supporters to sign up more than 2,000 new readers to the paper (see article below).

not guaranteed under bourgeois democracy.

The January 22 *New York Times* published an interview with a miner at the Alma No. 1 mine in Melville, West Virginia, where two workers died on the job after a fire erupted along a conveyor belt carrying coal out of the mine. “This was not the first such fire, said one Alma miner, who was granted anonymity because he feared reprisals from his employers,” the *Times* reported. The article went on to quote the worker explaining

Two more miners die in Kentucky

BY PAUL PEDERSON

April 25—Two miners killed on the job in Kentucky last week brings the total number of deaths so far this year in U.S. coal mines to 26—four more than the 22 killed in all of 2005.

David Bolen, 28, with three years as a miner, was killed April 20 when a 20-foot piece of rock fell on him at Tri Star Coal’s No. 1 mine, a small underground mine in Pike County, according to press reports.

The mine has not produced coal since 1999, according to statistics

Last week, 14 new endorsements came in from Canada, New Zealand, and the United States. These include Graham Cooke, the Aotearoa Branch Secretary of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union; and Jules Lobel, professor at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, who is also part of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Endorsements and financial contributions can be sent to the Militant Defense Fund, P.O. Box 42896, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Fax: (215) 243-7986; E-mail: *militantdefensefund@yahoo.com*.

how he put out another fire in the same spot earlier, when the sprinkler system didn’t work, and how the supervisor ignored his report.

More recently, an April 23 *New York Times* article, “Young Officers Join the Debate Over Rumsfeld,” said the reporter did not use the names of those interviewed. “To protect their careers, the officers were granted anonymity so they could speak frankly about the debates they have had and have heard,” it stated.

from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). At that time it employed 18 people. Tri Star took over the operation in May 2005 and has been cited by MSHA for safety violations 63 times since then. The company has paid none of the fines, the largest of which was \$154.

Some 14 hours after Bolen’s death, Rick McKnight, 45, died after being pinned between mining machines underground at Huff Creek No. 1 Mine in Harlan County, owned by Arch Coal subsidiary Lone Mountain Processing, the April 21 *Lexington Herald-Leader* reported. He is the third miner in five years to be killed on the job at that mine.

As the coal bosses press for maximum production to take advantage of booming prices, the pace of deaths in the mines is increasing. The fatalities on the job from January through April of this year now equal the deaths in those four months for the last three years combined.

850 subscribe to ‘Militant’ in 2 weeks of drive \$15,000 per week needed for spring Militant Fund

Spring 2006 ‘Militant’ Sub Drive			
April 8–May 28			
Week 2 of 7			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle	115	72	63%
Twin Cities	145	86	59%
Albany, NY	12	7	58%
Des Moines	150	87	58%
Miami	110	61	55%
Amherst	6	3	50%
Newark	140	65	46%
Houston	100	43	43%
Price	65	26	40%
Washington, DC	75	28	37%
Birmingham	85	31	36%
New York	300	107	36%
Atlanta	75	26	35%
Los Angeles	135	44	33%
Philadelphia	100	33	33%
San Francisco	60	20	33%
Detroit	20	5	25%
Chicago	85	20	24%
Tampa	10	2	20%
Boston	75	12	16%
Pittsburgh	60	8	13%
U.S. Total	1923	778	40%
AUSTRALIA	30	11	37%
NEW ZEALAND			
Christchurch	15	6	40%
Auckland	30	9	30%
N.Z. Total	45	15	33%
ICELAND	14	4	29%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	50	15	30%
Edinburgh	25	5	20%
UK Total	75	20	27%
CANADA	110	26	24%
SWEDEN	35	4	11%
Int’l totals	2232	858	43%
Should be	2000	571	29%

BY PAUL PEDERSON

April 26—As of today, 858 people have subscribed to the *Militant* since supporters of the paper kicked off a seven-week campaign April 8 to win 2,000 new readers.

Reports continue to come in of dozens of subscriptions sold at rallies by working people demanding legal status for undocumented immigrants. Here’s a note from Newark, New Jersey. “Ten percent of those present at the march of 1,500 bought the *Militant*,” wrote Mike Taber, a supporter of the paper there. He was part of a team that sold the *Militant* at an April 23 rally for immigrant rights in Newark. “We sold a total of 43 subscriptions and another 120 people bought copies. Several of the subscriptions were sold after Nancy Rosenstock, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Newark, addressed the rally. In her remarks she urged people to read the *Militant*.”

Partisans of the *Militant* are gearing up to build and participate in more such mobilizations. Many have ordered extra-large bundles of the paper to get it out to the thousands who will be joining actions on May 1 around the country.

At the same time, supporters of the *Militant* are also campaigning to raise \$90,000 in a drive that concludes the same day as the circulation effort—May 28. At the conclusion of the first week,

the weekly collection needed to keep the drive on schedule is behind. In cities where fund supporters have gotten a jump on fund-raising and reached out broadly, however, the response has been promising.

In Atlanta, supporters of the *Militant* have collected more than one-third of their \$4,000 local quota. Barbara Bowman, who is organizing the fund drive there, described how they were able to get the effort off to a good start. “Each potential contributor received a copy of the initial appeal as soon as it was available,” Bowman wrote. “We followed up with phone calling and face-to-face discussions on the importance of funding the work of the *Militant*. We made sure to discuss not only each individual’s contribution, but a schedule of payments and the importance of getting the funds in right away. These modest steps resulted in a good initial collection.”

Supporters of the fund in Atlanta sent in \$1,415 in the first week—putting them at the top of the chart—and they have \$3,300 pledged.

To be on course to reach \$90,000 by May 28, the *Militant* needs to receive another \$23,000 by next Wednesday, May 3, and \$15,000 per week from then on. With a concerted effort this is possible. Please send funds to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

\$90,000 ‘Militant’ Fund Drive			
April 15–May 28 * Week 1 of 6			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta*	4,000	1,415	35%
New York	12,000	3,019	25%
Houston*	3,500	440	13%
Seattle	8,000	870	11%
Boston*	3,300	300	9%
Chicago	5,500	400	7%
Des Moines	2,000	125	6%
Miami	2,100	129	6%
Birmingham*	2,000	80	4%
Newark	3,500	135	4%
Washington, DC	2,500	28	1%
Los Angeles	8,500	0	0%
Philadelphia	3,200	0	0%
Pittsburgh	4,000	0	0%
Price	3,000	0	0%
San Francisco	8,500	0	0%
Tampa	300	0	0%
Twin Cities	4,800	0	0%
U.S. Total	80,700	6,941	9%
AUSTRALIA	1,000	0	0%
CANADA	2,000	0	0%
ICELAND	200	0	0%
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	1,500		0%
Christchurch	700		0%
N.Z. Total	2,200	0	0%
SWEDEN	640	0	0%
UK	1,800	0	0%
Int’l totals	88,540	6,941	8%
Goal/Should be	90,000	15,000	17%
*raised goal			

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Police in Mexico attack strikers occupying steel plant

On April 20 about 600 police attacked striking workers occupying the Sicartsa steel plant in the western state of Michoacán in southern Mexico. The plant is owned by Group Villacero. Three workers were killed, two of them from gunfire by the cops, who threw tear gas canisters at the workers. One cop was killed and more than 30 people injured. The steel facility employs 2,100 unionized workers. “Workers remained in control of the plant despite the police operation,” the BBC reported. Workers have been on strike since the beginning of April to protest the government’s refusal to recognize Napoleón Gómez as head of the Miners and Steelworkers Union. Federal officials accused him of misappropriating funds paid by copper company Grupo Mexico into a trust for workers.

—Brian Williams

Paperworkers in Quebec fight layoffs, plant closure

LEBEL-SUR-QUÉVILLON, Quebec—The 360 members of the Chemical, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) have been locked out by Domtar in northern Quebec since Nov. 24, 2005. Two days earlier workers at the pulp plant had voted by 97 percent to reject the company demands that would lead to the layoff of more than 100 workers. Domtar wants layoffs by department, ignoring overall seniority. “If you don’t have seniority you haven’t got a union,” Ron Allard told the *Militant* on the picket line.

Palestinian rights supporter Al-Arian accepts plea deal; may now be deported

BY BERNIE SENTER

MIAMI—Palestinian rights supporter Sami Al-Arian accepted a plea agreement on April 17 that will allow the U.S. government to deport him. Last December, the government’s more than 10-year case against the former University of South Florida professor collapsed when a jury acquitted him and two others of charges of terrorism. Al-Arian was returned to prison after the trial while the government decided on whether to retry him on some of the deadlocked charges or seek to deport him.

“He did not plead guilty to any crime of violence, and by pleading he gave his family closure in this ordeal,” said his attorney, Linda Moreno. Al-Arian has spent more than three years in prison on charges of “racketeering, conspiracy to maim and murder,” and of providing material support to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. He was denied bail upon his arrest in February 2003, put in solitary confinement, and fired from his job. Numerous demonstrations and meetings were organized on his behalf in Tampa.

In the plea agreement, Al-Arian pled guilty to a charge of “conspiracy to provide services” to a “terrorist” organization. This included aiding three individuals associated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad with immigration issues, fighting against their deportation, and concealing their connection to the organization. The government was unable to link Al-Arian or the other defendants to any “terrorist” acts in the five-month trial, during which they presented nearly 80 witnesses, 1,800 faxes, wiretap transcripts, and e-mails.

One of the latest acts of solidarity for the mill workers was an April 10 rally that drew 1,500 people in a community of 3,500. In Malartic, in the same area, CEP-organized workers at the Domtar sawmill are fighting the announced closure of the plant, now scheduled for May 5.

—Joe Young and Annette Kouri

Locked-out carpenters in Ontario appeal for support

VAUGHAN, Ontario—Some 60 members of Carpenters Union Local 1072 have been locked out since last December, by idX here, just north of Toronto. The unionists refused to accept the company’s contract proposal, which included a 33 percent reduction in pay and benefit and pension cuts. IdX has brought in replacement workers and hired private antiunion security. “It’s union-busting 100 percent, they’re not interested in negotiating, but in getting rid of the union,” Local 1072 business agent Tony Orelas told the *Militant* in the union picket trailer on April 17. The Ontario Federation of Labor is appealing to other unionists to give their support by visiting the picket line and sending solidarity messages or financial contributions. These can be sent to Tony Orelas, c/o Carpenters Union Local 1072, 222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 9T2.

—Beverly Bernardo

Australia: protesters condemn wage cuts at Opera House

SYDNEY, Australia—A series of protests at the Sydney Opera House, called by the Construction, Forestry,

Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), the United Service Group has agreed to re-negotiate a union contract for the 20 maintenance workers there. The company, which is taking over maintenance work at the Opera House, had initially offered nonunion individual contracts that cut pay by 15 percent to 20 percent. Joao Mavureira, the union delegate, and Adriano Juarez, still on light duty after being seriously injured on the job, weren’t offered contracts—or jobs—by the new company. The protests began

1,000 rally in N.Y. to back TWU



Roberto Mercado

Transport Workers Union Local 100 president Roger Toussaint speaks in New York after march across the Brooklyn Bridge April 24. He then reported for a 10-day jail term imposed under the antilabor Taylor Law for strike by 34,000 transit workers in December.

February 24 with the largest in early March. Negotiations on the contract are now taking place.

—Bob Aiken

‘Changing Face of U.S. Politics’ is now available in Swedish

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—*USA-politikens ansikte i förändring—Arbetarklasspolitik och fackföreningarna* (The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions) the Swedish translation of the Pathfinder title, is now available on the publisher’s web site.

Published last September, it was first sold at the Gothenburg book fair at that time. Two auto workers from the Volvo plant there were among those who each picked up a copy. Since then the book has been a feature on book tables organized by the Communist League and the Young Socialists here.

The two organizations have also held classes on the book. “I particularly liked the class analysis in the chapter on ‘Prospects for Socialism in America,’” said Daniel Nordström, who has been attending the class. “Who the allies of the working class are and who the enemies are. Which groups can be won, which groups, like women and Blacks, have social weight. How different social movements affected the consciousness

of the working class. And I liked the chapter on Trotsky’s view of the role of Black workers as a vanguard for the whole class,” he said.

The book has been translated, proofread, and edited by workers, students, and others in various cities in Sweden, who took on this task after their regular hours of work or study. It was formatted, indexed, and given its graphic form by the international volunteers of the Print Project, and downloaded in digital form to be produced by volunteers in Sweden.

So far 47 copies of the 477-page book have been sold or distributed. That includes copies to the seven largest university libraries in Sweden.

For further reading

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes

Building the kind of party the working class needs to prepare for coming class battles. **\$23**

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM



25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 8, 1981

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Some 20–25,000 rail workers demonstrated here April 29. The massive protest united all American railway unions in opposition to Reagan’s budget cuts against Conrail, Amtrak, and railroad retirement funds.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, United Transportation Union President Fred Hardin, and Railway Labor Executives Association and Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks head Fred Kroll spoke to the rally in front of the Capitol building.

Kroll said: “We will win this battle through legislation or on the picket line, like our brave brothers and sisters the coal miners.” Cheers and chants of “Strike! Strike! Strike!” greeted his speech.

After the Washington rally, many rail workers tried to lobby their senators and members of Congress.



May 7, 1956

The fascist regime of General Franco is fighting for its very existence on three fronts. The strike wave in Northern Spain which appeared to have ebbed is now gripping the industrial city of Bilbao. Student unrest, which the regime has met with arrests, trials and prison terms is persisting. The Spanish North African Empire is disintegrating under the impact of the Arab National revolution.

The strikes that took place last month throughout northern Spain in defiance of the laws forbidding all such actions, developed originally in protest against the inadequate wage concessions Franco had made to the demands of the workers. The meager increases, moreover, were swallowed up instantly when the cost of basic foods rose the day that the wage increases went into effect.



May 15, 1931

Having exhausted every resource to maintain himself upon a throne that has been tottering for years, Alfonso of Bourbon found himself compelled to quit the country [Spain] on April 14. The monarchy fell to pieces at one blow, nobody—absolutely nobody—stood up to defend it. It really fell like a rotten fruit. And the republic was proclaimed all over the country without combat....

This circumstance has only still further stimulated the democratic illusions of the masses who naively imagine that the victory over the monarchy was obtained thanks to the municipal elections of the 12th. This illusion is also shared by the anarcho-syndicalist elements of the National Confederation of Labor. The official organ of the N.C. of L., wrote literally on April 23: “Under a regime of liberty, the bloodless revolution is still more possible, still easier than under the monarchy.”

U.S. immigration rises to new levels, shifts from Europe to Asia and Latin America

(Third in a series)

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the 1960s immigration to the United States rose substantially and shifted in origin from Europe to Latin America and Asia. These changes were driven by the needs of U.S. capital and by the dispossession of rural toilers in countries oppressed by imperialism throughout the world. In 1965, in response to the needs of U.S. employers, Congress eliminated the system of immigration quotas based on national origin, which had been in place for the previous four decades.

Earlier waves of immigration, in the 1800s and the first decades of the 20th century, were primarily from Europe. Of the 20 million people who have moved to the United States since 1980, 75 percent came from Asia and Latin America. This explosion in immigration in recent decades has resulted in the number of foreign-born in the U.S. population increasing from 6.2 percent in 1980 to 12 percent last year.

During the 1960s, more than 400,000 Asians entered the United States, after having been barred from 1917 to 1943 and then severely restricted by immigration quotas until they were lifted in 1965.

The largest numbers of those entering the United States since the 1970s have come from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially Mexico. The U.S. capitalist class has continued

to draw on these workers to meet its labor needs in agriculture and industry with a workforce it can subject to second-class status and superexploit.

The number of workers without papers has shot up from about 2 million in the 1980s to as many as 12 million today—nearly 5 percent of the workforce. According to a recent Pew Hispanic Center study, 40 percent of the undocumented have arrived in the past five years.

The U.S. rulers rely on immigrant workers, especially in agriculture, garment manufacturing, meatpacking, restaurants, hotels, and construction. Their use of cops and legislation is designed not to block immigration, but to maintain a section of the working class with less legal protection and thus more vulnerable to superexploitation. The threat of deportation is aimed at intimidating foreign-born workers from organizing into unions and engaging in social and political struggles. This situation helps bosses increase competition for jobs and lower the wages of all working people, while fostering divisions among workers by scapegoating immigrants for the social ills caused by capitalism.

In face of a swelling population of undocumented workers and a burgeoning underground economy, the U.S. rulers have periodically passed legislation to regularize the status of some workers without papers, seeking to gain tighter control over the workforce. The Immigration Reform and Control Act passed



Militant/Robby Kopec

10,000 rallied in San Francisco April 23 against criminalization of immigrants. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act barred immigration from China until it was repealed in 1943.

by Congress in 1986 and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan was a bipartisan effort to respond to this situation. The law provided amnesty for 2.7 million undocumented workers: about 1.6 million individuals who could prove they had resided in the country since Jan. 1, 1982, and 1.1 million agricultural laborers who had worked in the United States for at least six months.

To help meet the need for seasonal labor in the fields of the Southwest, the legislation created a new seven-year temporary agricultural worker program. It established penalties for employers who hire immigrants without official papers. The purpose was not to halt immigration but to allow bosses to use the threat of deportation to heighten fear among undocumented workers they hired.

Four years later, legislation significantly boosted the annual cap on immigration from the figure of 290,000

set in 1965 to 700,000 for 1992–94, and 675,000 starting in 1995. The actual numbers were much higher. Not included in the annual cap were relatives of U.S. citizens, who were granted an unlimited number of visas, and the 125,000 refugees allowed entry each year.

Further steps to reinforce the second-class status of immigrant workers and weaken the entire labor movement were taken by the Clinton administration, which enacted the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. This measure expanded the powers of the federal immigration authorities to round up and deport those charged with being “illegal,” without the right to judicial review or appeal. Those in the United States longer than six months after their visas had expired could be deported and barred from returning for three years. Those without a visa for more than a year would have to wait 10 years before they could legally return.

The legislation doubled the number of border patrol cops to about 10,000, making the immigration police the largest federal cop agency. It also required states to phase in over six years state-issued ID documents, and made undocumented immigrants ineligible for Social Security benefits.

The same year the Clinton administration put into effect its so-called welfare reform law, which expanded upon these restrictions. In addition to eliminating Aid to Families with Dependent Children, this legislation—the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996—barred undocumented immigrants from most federal, state, and local public assistance. Legal immigrants entering the United States after 1996 were now ineligible for five years for various federal social programs like food stamps and Medicaid.

Further measures to beef up the immigration police and restrict the rights of immigrants have been taken by the Bush administration under the banner of the “fight against terrorism,” such as the USA Patriot Act. These measures constitute the framework for the various immigration “reform” bills currently being discussed in Congress. Bipartisan areas of agreement include a further boost in the number of border patrol cops. Among plans under consideration is a proposal to double the *migra* force over the next five years from its current level of 12,000. By contrast, in the early 1980s there were about 2,500 immigration cops operating along the borders.

Immigration raids target undocumented

Continued from front page

Mexico and other countries in Latin America, face civil charges for being in the United States without proper documentation. The day after the raids, 275 workers had already been deported to Mexico, with many others being processed for deportation. “They called us into a meeting at 9:00 a.m.,” Guillermo Navarrate, an IFCO pallet maker who came to Houston from El Salvador, told the *Militant*. “There were people there dressed in police-looking uniforms who turned out to be *la migra*. They arrested us, put us on a bus, and took us to a detention center. They made us wait 12 hours, then released most of us. We are waiting to hear if we will get permission to work.”

Commenting on conditions in the plant, he added, “We make \$5.15 an

hour, working 10 to 12 hours a day. The only break we get is for lunch.”

An IFCO worker from Nicaragua, who asked that his name not be used, told the *Militant* that he and many of his co-workers had taken the day off and marched for equal rights for immigrants on April 10. “We got time off and had won it for May 1 too,” he said. Another march is planned in Houston that day.

While ICE cops were rounding up workers at two Houston factories, many other workers stopped by to see how they could help their relatives, friends, and co-workers. Delmy Miranda, 26, whose husband and brother were arrested, told *El Dia* reporters that they would be in danger if deported to El Salvador. “It’s not right that they carry off honest people,” she said. “I can’t believe they did this injustice at the moment when we were fighting for justice and equality. Now we are going to go and participate in marches and take these protests more seriously.”

José Eliseo Rivera was there to check on the fate of his son. Soon after he found out that his 22-year-old son had been swept up in the raid, he got a call informing him that his brother, Arístides Rivera, 31, had also been arrested by the ICE in Louisiana. “Right now I am very angry,” he told *El Dia*.

“They tell us that with rights come obligations, but we have only the obligations—no rights! We need amnesty and green cards to give us the ability to work like everyone else,” Yolanda

Paredes, a Houston restaurant worker, told the *Militant*.

Defending the raid, U.S. senator Hillary Clinton, a Democrat from New York, said, “It’s obviously a political decision, but I welcome it. We need to send a clear message to employers and anyone else who would exploit immigrants.”

The raids were carried out as Congress considers legislation to give Homeland Security greater access to Social Security records. A bill before the Senate and one already passed by the House would create a worker-verification system to check a new hire’s identity and work eligibility against Social Security databases and immigration records. Employers are currently required to ask for documents from workers but not to verify those documents against such records.

While past roundups of undocumented workers have focused on airports and military bases, Chertoff recently declared that “nothing is off limits,” including the massive immigrant workforce in agriculture.

However, the *Wall Street Journal* noted, “The department’s aggressive new stance faces a tough political future...and depends on Congress’s willingness to finance a crackdown on some industries that are fueling the economic boom.”

Jose Aravena, Anthony Dutrow, and Steve Warshell contributed to this article.

Special offer when you subscribe to

THE MILITANT



‘Our History Is Still Being Written’ shows class essence of the Cuban Revolution

N.Y. event promotes book by Chinese-Cuban generals

BY SAM MANUEL
AND MICHAEL ITALIE

NEW YORK—Some 160 people attended a meeting here April 22 to discuss reading, selling, and using Pathfinder’s newest book, *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. The event was marked by the participation of a good number of Young Socialists and other youth from the region.

Speakers included Jacob Perasso, a YS national organizer; Jorge Peña, first secretary of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations; and Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party and the book’s editor. Martín Koppel of the SWP in New York, and Chauncey Robinson, a Young Socialist in Newark, New Jersey, and the SWP candidate for city council there, co-chaired the program.

Those present came not only from the New York–New Jersey area but from Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, and Albany, New York. The event was the last of four regional events on this topic, sponsored over the past month by the SWP and Young Socialists.

Several members of Casa de las Américas in New York attended, including its president, Luis Miranda. The organization is made up of Cubans who support the Cuban Revolution.

Participants included members of Cuba Solidarity New York, who helped staff a table at the event to build the May 20 “Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba” march on Washington.

Corky Lee, a photojournalist whose

photos document the Asian and Pacific American community, also attended.

“*Our History Is Still Being Written* was created to be used as a tool in the class battles of today and those coming,” said Perasso, who is also a leader of the SWP’s trade union work. He pointed to the protests by immigrant workers and their allies and noted the self-confidence of those in Detroit and other cities who were fired for joining the protests and are now fighting to win back their jobs.

Ross Hogan, a Young Socialist who attends the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, recounted a story told by Armando Choy, one of the Chinese-Cuban generals interviewed in the book. While working in his father’s store in the mid-1950s, Choy went against his father’s wishes and gave a pound of corn meal to a man whose family would have only that to eat for the day. It was one of the experiences with class injustice that led Choy to join the revolutionary struggle. This kind of solidarity “is the backbone of the Cuban Revolution today,” he said.

Milton Chee, a rail worker in San Francisco who helped locate valuable photos of Chinese in Cuba for the book, told the audience how thousands of Chinese were brought to the West Coast of the United States in the mid-1800s during the so-called coolie trade. “Chinese revolted on these ships against the conditions that were as hideous as the African slave trade,” said Chee. His own father was among the thousands of Chinese and other Asian immigrants who claimed U.S. citizenship after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire



Militant/Maura DeLuca

April 22 meeting in New York promoting *Our History Is Still Being Written*. On platform (from left): Mary-Alice Waters, the book’s editor; Jorge Peña, first secretary of Cuban Mission to the United Nations; and Young Socialists leader Jacob Perasso.

destroyed all the city’s birth records.

“*Our History* shows part of the history of the Cuban Revolution,” said Jorge Peña. “After reading it, you’re not surprised that Cuba is able to send volunteer doctors to Africa, Venezuela, or Pakistan. The struggle of the Cuban Revolution is the struggle of all the people.”

Waters reminded those present the meeting coincided with the 45th anniversary of the defeat of the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion of Cuba in April 1961. She cited the observation by Cuban commander José Ramón Fernández that “the mercenaries came well organized, well armed, and well supported. What they lacked was a just cause to defend. That is why they did not fight with the same passion, courage, conviction, valor, firmness, bravery, and spirit of victory as did the revolutionary forces.”

“It is a class question,” Waters said, “one the imperialists can never understand”—the class character of the Cuban Revolution that *Our History* explains. Her presentation focused on why the future of the sharpening struggles unfolding in the U.S. today are intertwined with Cuba’s socialist revolution and its example.

In the discussion period, one of the

participants asked about the growth of small-scale urban agriculture in Cuba that Moisés Sío Wong, one of the generals interviewed in the book, describes. This initiative, which began within Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, was expanded in response to the food shortages that developed at the start of the Special Period, Waters said, referring to the years after the collapse of the Soviet bloc, when Cuba abruptly lost the source of 85 percent of its imports. It is one of the ways in which working people have successfully met Cuba’s economic and political challenges.

Peña commented on a number of measures that the Cuban government was compelled to take during the Special Period, including the expansion of tourism and joint economic ventures involving corporations from capitalist countries, “which increased inequalities” between Cubans with access to hard currency and those without it. He said programs such as the urban agriculture and the initiatives to improve the quality of schools and expand access to university education have helped reduce those inequalities and advance the Cuban Revolution.

A meat packer from Newark asked how it was possible to win over Cuban-Americans, like some of his co-workers who are critical of the Cuban Revolution. Perasso replied that the class struggle in the United States will have an impact on many working people, including those born in Cuba who have immigrated here. He pointed to a recent Cuban immigrant he had worked with at a meatpacking plant in Minnesota. “When he complained after his first weeks on the job that his hands were swelling up from the pace of the work on the line, the boss told him, ‘If you don’t like it, you can go back to Cuba,’” said Perasso. The co-worker was stunned by the callousness of the response, but he fought back, kept his job, and over time began explaining to others how much better working conditions and access to medical care were in Cuba.

Most of those present stayed for informal discussion over dinner for two hours after the program. Youth got a dance going at the end. Participants pledged and donated \$6,980 to help finance the promotion and distribution of books such as *Our History Is Still Being Written*.

Fifteen Young Socialists met the next morning to discuss their activities. These include building the immigrant rights actions and the march in Washington, “Hands off Venezuela and Cuba,” joining in the spring *Militant* sub drive, and planning the YS summer schools, which will begin in several cities, including New York, Atlanta, and Twin Cities.

Maura DeLuca from New York contributed to this article.

Bush: ‘No mass deportations’; Clinton: ‘Wall off border’

Continued from front page
with Mexico.

“As for how to stem the tide of illegal immigrants, ‘A physical structure is obviously important,’ she [Clinton] said,” the *News* reported. “‘A wall in certain areas would be appropriate,’ as long as it was not a ‘dumb wall’ that could be scaled or tunneled. Advocating ‘smart fencing,’ she added, ‘There is technology that could be in the fence that would spot people coming from 250 or 300 yards away and signal patrol agents who could respond.’” The separation wall Tel Aviv is building between the West Bank and Israel might help guide Washington, Clinton stated.

The Democratic senator said she welcomes a crackdown by Washington on employers hiring undocumented immigrants. Such steps, along with “securing the border,” have to come first before any measures may be implemented to regularize the status of immigrants already in the United States, she added.

“We need to structure it as one piece of comprehensive legislation, with a staged implementation,” Clinton said, referring to the immigration debate in the Senate. The legalization process could begin “12 to 24 months” after border control measures take effect, she told the *News*.

Clinton joined other critics of the Bush administration faulting it for be-

ing “soft” and “incompetent” on law enforcement.

The conservative *New York Post* also criticized Bush for lack of enforcement of existing immigration laws. An article in its April 25 edition said that between 1995 and 1997, under the Clinton administration, federal agents carried out 10,000 to 18,000 worksite arrests of undocumented workers and 1,000 employers were served with fines for employing them. “Under the Bush administration, however, worksite arrests fell to 159 in 2004—with the princely total of *three* notices of intent to fine served on employers. Thus, worksite arrests under President Bush have fallen from Clintonian levels by something like 97 per cent—even though 9/11 occurred in the meantime,” the *Post* article stated.

A day earlier, speaking to an Orange County business group during a four-day visit to California, Bush sounded a different tone. “Massive deportation of the people here is unrealistic,” Bush said. “You can hear people out there hollering it’s going to work. It’s not going to work,” he said.

Bush was responding to backers of House Resolution 4437, or the Sensenbrenner bill, passed by the House of Representatives in December on the initiative of his party. This bill would make it a felony to be in the country without proper documentation and pe-

nalize anyone aiding an undocumented immigrant. Orange County’s Republican Congressional delegation had supported this bill unanimously.

Boosting the number of border patrol cops and utilizing existing technology to police the frontier with Mexico is already being done well and will improve, Bush said. “The best way to enforce our border,” he added, “is to come up with a rational plan that recognizes people coming here to work and let them do so on a temporary basis.”

The president said his “guest worker” program would allow employers to have the option of hiring immigrants for jobs “Americans won’t do.” A “tamper proof” federal ID card these temporary workers would be required to carry would cut down the hiring of “illegals,” he said.

While rejecting calls for immediate legal status for the undocumented, Bush said that there should be a path to citizenship for immigrants already in the country, as long as they are placed last in the line of those applying. These workers would also have to “pay a penalty for being here illegally, commit him- or herself to learn English...and get in the back of the line.”

Versions of Bush’s proposals are included in an alternative measure the Senate is debating, introduced by senators John McCain, a Republican, and Edward Kennedy, a Democrat.

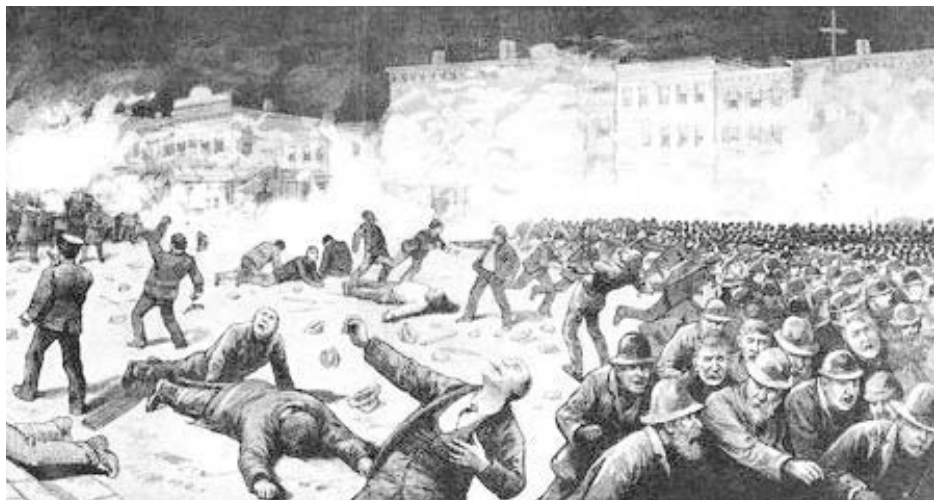
May Day originated in fight for eight-hour day in U.S.

International Workers Day began in the United States. It is celebrated as May Day throughout the world with the exception of the United States. In 1884 the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions began a campaign for the eight-hour working day. The federation set May 1, 1886, as the deadline for the bosses and their government to implement the measure. On that date hundreds of thousands of workers across the country went on strike. The Chicago labor movement, strongly influenced by revolutionary-minded workers who were anarchists, was one of the centers of the strike. Below is an account of the strike and its importance from Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years 1848–1917 by Farrell Dobbs. Dobbs was a central leader of the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strikes and national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1953 to 1972. This excerpt is being run in place of the Books of the Month column to mark May Day. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY FARRELL DOBBS

On May 1, 1886, the deadline set for inauguration of the eight-hour day, a gigantic strike wave developed. From coast to coast workers downed their tools, established picket lines, and held mass demonstrations. Then, in Chicago, Illinois—where outstanding labor solidarity was manifested—the capitalists launched a savage counteroffensive.

By that time the anarchists led by [Albert] Parsons and [August] Spies had emerged as the most influential radical tendency within the Chicago labor movement. At first they had been rather indifferent to the eight-hour demand, dismissing it as a reformist compromise with the capitalist system. But when it became apparent that the demand had drawn large masses into united action,



Artist's depiction of police attack on workers at mass meeting on Chicago's old Market Square on May 4, 1886. May Day started with huge strike for eight-hour day.

they made common cause with the workers in the eight-hour fight as a means of promoting a general confrontation between labor and capital. Acting through trade unions under their sway, the anarchists helped to strengthen the effectiveness of the strike.

As the struggle unfolded, the Chicago police harassed the strikers day after day, trying to provoke an incident that could be used as a pretext for a full-scale attack on the trade unions. A labor rally to protest the police provocations was held at Haymarket Square on May 4. It was a peaceful assembly that was about to adjourn when a large body of cops descended upon it, demanding that those present disperse immediately. At that point a bomb exploded among the police, killing one instantly and wounding others. The forces of "law and order" then fired upon the assembled workers, inflicting many casualties.

This tragedy provided the capitalists with an alibi for a general assault on the eight-hour movement. Through a combination of witch-hunting and police repression labor's ranks were divided, the strike undermined, and

the workers forced to return to their jobs. Even under those adverse conditions, however, some reductions in hours were achieved because the formidable strength displayed by the trade unions had thrown a scare into many employers.

As part of its antilabor campaign the ruling class demanded vengeance against those held responsible for the Haymarket bombing, and the blame was fixed upon the anarchists, who had issued propaganda urging the workers to arm themselves in self-defense. Eight of them were brought to trial before a rigged jury that—acting out of prejudice against the defendants' ideas—convicted them without the prosecution having presented any proof of guilt. After losing appeals made to higher courts, four victims of the frame-up were hanged: Albert R. Parsons, August Spies, George Engel, and Adolph Fischer. Another of those scheduled to be hanged, Louis Lingg, escaped that fate only by committing suicide. Michael Schwab and Samuel Fielden, both of whom had initially been doomed to execution, later had

their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. Oscar Neebe received a fifteen-year prison term.

In a political sense, the Haymarket episode put an end to the anarchists' leading role within the trade unions. Their movement was reduced to little more than a small band of intellectuals, who were located in the eastern part of the country and who exercised no appreciable influence among the masses.

The situation was different, though, concerning the individual anarchists charged with murder. They were honored throughout the mass movement as courageous fighters who had been singled out by the capitalists in an attack that was really aimed at the entire working class. When the jury found the eight defendants guilty, organized labor nationally launched a pardon campaign on their behalf. Following the executions a vast body of Chicago trade unionists attended the funeral of those whose lives had been taken by the capitalist government. The pardon campaign was continued thereafter until finally, a few years later, Governor John P. Altgeld of Illinois reviewed the trial proceedings and declared all the defendants innocent. Altgeld then freed the frame-up victims serving prison terms and granted pardons posthumously to those who had been hanged.

www.pathfinderpress.com

Revolutionary Continuity: the Early Years, 1848–1917

by Farrell Dobbs

How successive generations of fighters took part in the struggles of the U.S. labor movement, seeking to build a leadership that could advance the class interests of workers and small farmers. 1st of 2 vols. **\$17.95**



—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

UNITED STATES

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

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

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

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

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

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: 307 Brooks, 160 Infirmary Way. Zip: 01003. Tel: (914) 466-6772. E-mail: AmherstYS@hotmail.com
Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 695 Gullen Mall Apt. 408. Zip: 48360. Tel: (248) 860-9341. E-mail: ysdetroit@yahoo.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard

St. E, West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

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

NEW YORK: Albany: Box 1767, Colonial Quad. Zip: 12222. Tel: (845) 706-4811. E-mail: Young Socialists518@gmail.com
Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@yahoo.com

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

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@sbcglobal.net

UTAH: Price: 80 W. Main St., Suite 207. Zip: 84501. Tel: (435) 613-1806. utahswp@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-1315. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW

2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

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

FRANCE

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

ICELAND

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

Christchurch: 287 Selwyn St., Spreydon. Postal address: P.O. Box 7103. Tel: (3) 930-3373. E-mail: clchch@gmail.com

SWEDEN

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

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com


SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: First Floor, 3 Grosvenor St., Haymarket. Postal code: EH12 5ED. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

May **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

La emancipación de la mujer y la lucha africana por la libertad
(Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle)
by Thomas Sankara
There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women, explains the leader of the 1983–87 revolution in Burkina Faso.
\$5.00 Special price: \$3.50



FBI on Trial
by Margaret Jayko
Story of the 1987 victory in the 14-year SWP legal battle against the FBI, CIA, and other government spy agencies.
\$18.95 Special price: \$14.00

Habla Malcolm X
(Malcolm X Speaks)
\$19 Special price: \$14.00

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

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL MAY 31

Stop immigration raids, deportations

The labor movement should loudly protest the recent immigration raids at IFCO plants, and demand an end to cop roundups and deportations of immigrant workers.

Working people should also speak out against Sen. Hillary Clinton’s call to wall off the border with Mexico, modeled on Tel Aviv’s notorious separation wall.

And we need to oppose a proposal in Congress to give *la migr*a access to lists of “no-match” Social Security numbers, as well as current immigration bills that would create a system for bosses to check employees’ identity and work eligibility through federal databases.

The high-profile arrest of nearly 1,200 workers and deportation of 275 coincided with the reopening of Senate debate on immigration “reform.” This action will be used by the White House and others who advocate regularizing the status of some immigrants to show critics on the right they are not “soft” on “law enforcement.”

President Bush said that “massive deportation of the people here is...not going to work.” He stated a fact. The goal of the U.S. rulers is not to deport most of the 12 million undocumented immigrants. On the contrary, the bosses need immigrant labor. The workings of the capitalist system keep drawing millions from around the globe into the U.S. No walls or laws will stop that.

The real purpose of all the bills under debate, fences, police raids, and deportations is to guarantee bosses a pool of superexploited labor by intimidating workers without papers into accepting second-class status and not fighting for their rights. This is used to push down the wages of all working people and to foster divisions by telling those with legal status that the undocumented are “stealing American jobs,” thus taking the blame off the real cause of unemployment—the

capitalist market system and the bosses’ profit greed.

The government has enforced this setup, not by wholesale roundups but by beefing up the federal police in border regions and through selective raids. Bosses can and do warn those without papers that if they organize or speak out they will call the cops on them.

The U.S. rulers, however, also need to deal with the millions who live and work “in the shadows,” whose data don’t appear in government records. A majority of the ruling class wants to regularize the status of layers of the undocumented to keep a tighter check on them.

Democrats and Republicans are debating how to do that. Many, from Bush to senators McCain and Kennedy, advocate a “guest worker” program granting permanent residence after several years while chaining workers to their bosses. Senator Clinton, with a “law and order” position to the right of Bush, calls for building a hi-tech border wall now, and legal status for some people later. A House-approved bill calls for criminalizing all the undocumented. All these politicians agree on adding more immigration cops and tighter “border security.”

But the bosses and their twin parties must take into account the increased confidence of immigrant workers to organize and speak out. This mood, part of a broader pattern of resistance among working people, is registered not only in the huge immigrant rights rallies across the country but in the response to recent raids.

The ongoing mobilizations of immigrant workers and their allies are the key for labor. Working people should join the April 29–May 1 immigrant rights actions to demand: No to the use of Social Security no-match letters! Amnesty and unconditional permanent residency for all the undocumented now!

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA

Miami

U.S. Hands Off Iran! Speaker: Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 5. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 8365 NE 2nd Ave, room 206. Tel.: (305) 756-4436.

IOWA

Des Moines

Immigrant Rights Actions: The Power of the Working Class and the Example of the Cuban Revolution. Panel discussion. Sat., May 6. Militant Fund Banquet 6:00 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 3707 Douglas Avenue. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Support the Working-Class Alternative in the May 9 Newark City Elections. Speak-

ers: Nancy Rosenstock, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; Chauncey Robinson, SWP candidate for City Council in the West Ward. Fri., May 5, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5. 168 Bloomfield Ave. Tel.: (973) 481-0077.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

U.S. Hands Off Iran! Speaker: Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 5. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 307 W. 36th St. 10th Floor (near 8th Ave., take north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

TEXAS

Houston

U.S. Hands Off Iran! Speaker: Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 5, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 869-6550.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Celebrate Life and Political Contributions of Clifton DeBerry. Sat., May 6. Speakers: Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary; Young Socialists representative; Betsey Stone, organizer of San Francisco SWP branch. Dinner, 5:00 p.m.; program, 6:30 p.m. UFCW Local 101 Hall, 208 Miller Ave. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

Los Angeles

Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba. Sat., May 20 at 12 noon. *Gather at the downtown Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles. March to Pershing Square.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba. Sat., May 20. 10:00 a.m. at 15th St. and Euclid N.W., march to Lafayette Park. 2:00 p.m. rally in front of White House. Tel.: (917) 887-8710.

Immigrant rights rallies persist in U.S.

Continued from front page

heavy House bill,” referring to Catholic Archbishop George Niederauer. A large number of Asians took part, some holding signs reading, “Remember Chinese Exclusion Act = HR 4437.” That was a reference to the Sensenbrenner bill passed by the House of Representatives, which would make it a felony for anyone to be in the U.S. without proper documents. Demonstrators took pride in their countries of origin, waving flags from nearly every Latin American country, along with Filipino, Korean, and U.S. flags.

In Washington about 100 people whose family members were deported or are about to be deported rallied in front of Congress April 24 to condemn the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act passed exactly 10 years ago under Clinton. That law expanded the powers of the immigration police to round up and deport those charged with being “illegal” immigrants, without the right to judicial review or appeal.

That day, about 200 people marched in Rockford, Illinois, after rumors spread that immigration cops might be rounding up undocumented workers there, said the *Rockford Register Star*. Earlier that day, dozens of students skipped school and scores of small businesses—from bakeries to restaurants—shut down while the production in others was affected as workers called in sick or didn’t show up when the rumors began circulating. “Federal

law enforcement officials denied that anything major was under way,” the April 25 *Register Star* said.

In Toronto, some 800 demonstrators marched in a steady rain April 22 from the provincial legislature at Queens Park to City Hall to demand that the federal government halt deportations of undocumented workers and grant them permanent resident status. The action was called by Latino organizations. The day before about 1,000 workers rallied in an action called by Universal Workers Union Local 183, which organizes construction workers, to condemn the deportation of several dozen undocumented Portuguese construction workers.

More actions are planned April 29–May 1. While a number of the organizers of the April 10 mobilizations have spoken out against walkouts on May Day, many of these rallies have wide backing among workers and, in some cases, from the labor movement. The Chicago Federation of Labor, for example, is supporting the May Day rally there, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Cargill announced it is closing five beef plants and two hog plants May 1 because workers will attend immigrant rights actions. The plants are located in Plainview and Friona, Texas; Dodge City, Kansas; Schuyler, Nebraska; Ft. Morgan, Colorado; Ottumwa, Iowa; and Beardstown, Illinois.

Joel Britton in San Francisco, Mike Taber in Newark, and Robert Simms in Toronto contributed to this article.

Protests in Nepal

Continued from page 3

repeated nationwide “shutdowns” and week-long blockades of major cities, alternating with cease-fires and negotiations with the government. Unable to defeat the guerrillas, King Gyanendra suspended parliament in 2002 and assumed executive powers. Mass discontent mushroomed after he dissolved the cabinet and imposed a state of emergency last year.

The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) launched a rural guerrilla campaign against the government in 1996. It reportedly now has between 10,000 and 15,000 combatants, along with thousands of militia members. The war has been fueled by the intolerable social conditions facing the majority, hatred for the monarchy, and the discrediting of the main parliamentary parties as corrupt and unresponsive to popular needs.

The CPN (M) is a Stalinist organization that draws its political outlook from the former Chinese regime headed by Mao Zedong. Formed out of a split from one of the country’s Communist Party factions that has representatives in parliament, its central leader is Pushpa Kamal Dahal, known as Chairman Prachanda (meaning “fierce one”). It labels its political views the “Prachanda Path.”

In an extensive interview in the Feb. 20, 2000, issue of the *Revolutionary Worker*, newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party, a U.S. Maoist group, Prachanda described his party’s course as one of “establishing base areas in the countryside and aiming to surround the cities” to bring down the monarchy and establish a republic. “We came to understand Mao’s vision that the backward rural areas will be the basin of revolution,” he said, especially the isolated western regions that lack electricity, transportation, and communications facilities.

Prachanda said the goal of the “people’s war” is to “clean our own dirtiness and all our bad habits.” More to the point, he added that “the laborers who work in factories in Kathmandu or other cities have also not totally broken with bad habits” and need “cleansing.” This anti-working-class view is registered in the Maoist strategy of strangling the “corrupt” cities from the countryside.

Despite its alleged support for small farmers, the CPN (M) imposes “collective farming” in areas it controls rather than organizing peasants on a voluntary basis. Prachanda’s prescription for rural toilers was that they will “work together, eat together, sing together, dance together.” Far from seeking to preserve peasant cadres, he noted that the guerrilla army already had “more than 700 martyrs” and said, “We encourage, for our cultural revolution, this kind of sacrifice.” The Nepalese Maoists also claim to champion women’s struggle against oppressive conditions and point to the significant number of female guerrillas. Prachanda’s approach to birth control, however, was typical of Stalinist policies. He said the CPN (M) is “strongly encouraging men and women comrades, couples... not to have a baby for five to seven or ten years, because it will be a big practical problem.”

Its revolutionary rhetoric notwithstanding, the course of the CPN (M) is to form a bloc with the supposedly progressive wings of the capitalist class. In face of the explosion of mass protests, it decided to form an alliance with the bourgeois opposition. In a February interview with BBC, Prachanda left open even the possibility of serving in a new government under a constitutional monarchy ratified by a constitutional assembly.

In a December 2002 interview in the *Washington Times*, second-ranking party leader Baburam Bhattarai said the CPN (M) had “resolved to discard some of the negative and harmful experiences of the international communist movement—particularly those of the Stalin era.” He said this meant rejection of “one-party dictatorship.” Prachanda told the BBC his party now favors “multi-party competition.” In June 2005 the party issued a “self-criticism” when guerrillas bombed a bus killing nearly 40 civilians. In international politics, the CPN (M) agitates against “Indian expansionism,” playing on popular resentment against the Indian government’s influence in Nepal. On the other hand, it has said it would welcome good relations with Washington and continued foreign aid and loans.