

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

1 million march in Caracas
to mark defeat of U.S.-backed coup

—PAGE 7

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APRIL 30, 2007

‘We speak up for all women’

Widespread outrage forces firing of radio host over racist, sexist comments



Reuters/Mike Segar

Members of Rutgers women's basketball team at April 10 news conference in Piscataway, New Jersey, with athletic director Bob Malcahy at podium. The players' statements to the media turned the tide against notorious radio talk-show host Don Imus.

BY EDDIE BECK

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey, April 14—In face of widespread outrage over antiwoman and anti-Black comments by notorious radio talk-show host Don Imus, CBS Radio canceled his show April 12. A week earlier on the

“Imus in the Morning” program, he had called members of the Rutgers University women's basketball team “nappy-headed ho's” and his cohost Bernard McGuirk called them “hard-core ho's.”

When the controversy erupted, CBS, **Continued on page 3**

Workers in Minnesota protest immigration raid

Dozens arrested in cop sweep of town

BY JULIAN SANTANA AND CARLOS SAMANIEGO

WILLMAR, Minnesota, April 14—About 130 people gathered outside the Ramsey County Jail here today to protest a sweep of parts of this town yesterday by agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The car caravan and rally was organized by Raices and other immigrant rights groups.

According to the media and residents interviewed here, federal immigration cops arrested 49 people in raids on homes and businesses. Those grabbed by *la migra* had criminal records or were fleeing deportation orders, ICE officials said. But many people said such claims are the smokescreen.

“The reason given for the raid is an excuse to attack immigrant workers, because they took those with no criminal records too,” said Norma Gama, a resident of Willmar, a town of 18,000 people some 95 miles west of Minneapolis. According to the local daily *Tribune*, 18 of the 49



Militant/Carlos Samaniego

Enrique García, a construction worker, and Leah García in their trailer in Willmar, Minnesota, April 14. They said immigration cops surrounded their home and forced their way in to check IDs.

arrested had criminal records.

“Things would be a lot worse now if it hadn't been for the marches and rallies demanding their rights,” Gama added, referring to the mass actions here and across the country last spring demanding legalization of all immigrants.

Enrique García, 21, is a construction worker. “I didn't think this was going to

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British rulers ‘humiliated’ over capture of 15 soldiers

London, Washington try to squeeze Iran

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Most British media described the outcome of the crisis in which 15 British marines and sailors were captured by the Iranian Navy last month and then released by Tehran as

a “military fiasco” and a “humiliation” for London.

At the same time, ruling-class politicians and armed forces chiefs here are responding by preparing renewed imperialist aggression against Iran.

The Royal Navy is undertaking a wide-ranging review of its resources, rules of engagement, and operating procedures in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Soon after the 15 were released, Prime Minister Anthony Blair publicly attacked Tehran for its alleged “backing, financing, arming, supporting terrorism in Iraq.”

The government announced that it may use its forthcoming presidency of the United Nations Security Council to place on its agenda Tehran's capture

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Students at N.Y. high school may face fines over trip to Cuba

BY PAUL PEDERSON

NEW YORK, April 17—A high school teacher and a number of students have come under attack by the U.S. Treasury Department and the press for

**Drop threat of fines!
End U.S. travel ban!**

—editorial, p. 9

traveling to Cuba at the beginning of April without permission from the federal government.

On their return from the 10-day trip, the group, from Manhattan's Beacon High School, was reportedly stopped by customs agents and may face steep fines for traveling to Cuba, allegedly violating

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Harry Ring, communist militant for 71 years



Militant

Harry Ring, in late 1960s, during movement against Vietnam War.

National Committee from 1954 to 1981.

Ring was part of the *Militant* staff from 1952 to 1989, spending much of his political life as a revolutionary journalist. He was the paper's editor for several years beginning in 1968, and then, from 1971 to 1978, its Southwest bureau head, based out of Los Angeles.

Inspired by his older brother, a longtime working writer for a New York City daily, Ring often said how useful it would be for every new member of the *Militant* staff to serve a six-month apprenticeship on the New York *Daily News* before starting work. By his own example, he tried to demonstrate the inseparability of disciplined professionalism and socialist clarity in the effort to make understandable a paper published in the interests of the working class.

Ring launched the *Militant's* “Great Society” column and wrote it from 1968 until shortly before his death. His last byline appeared in the April 2 issue.

A meeting to celebrate Ring's life and political contributions will be held soon. For more information and to send messages to this event, contact the Los Angeles SWP branch at 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011. Fax: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net.

—ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

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Miami: Protesters demand asylum for Haitian refugees

BY MAGGIE TROWE
AND DEBORAH LIATOS

MIAMI—Protests have erupted here in response to the March 28 arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents of 101 Haitian immigrants who recently arrived at Hallandale Beach, just north of Miami.

The 102 Haitians (one drowned as he jumped off the ship), including 13 children, had crowded onto a 40-foot wooden boat. At sea for 22 days, they ran out of food and water for the last 12 days of their journey.

Haitian radio stations throughout south Florida demanded their release, lambasted the Bush administration for unfair treatment of Haitian immigrants, and announced the time and location of protests.

Hundreds have joined the protests. A March 29 picket outside an immigration facility near Hallandale Beach, where some of those detained are being held, drew more than 100 people during rush hour, mostly Haitians. Protesters chanted, "Let my people go!" and "Equal justice!"

"I live in the neighborhood," said Myrna Germaine, originally from Haiti. "I think we should give them a chance. They risked their lives to come here."

On March 31, hundreds rallied at a busy intersection by the ICE building in Miami. Speakers included Miami Archbishop John Favalora. He likened U.S. policy of detaining undocumented Haitians while accepting Cubans who arrive by sea to "apartheid."

Also speaking was Ramón Saul Sanchez, founder of the Democracy Movement, a Miami group that ac-

tively organizes provocations against the Cuban Revolution.

Other speakers included Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, a longtime promoter of Haitian rights and former candidate for president of Haiti. He was released from prison in Haiti last year and permitted to travel to the United States after protests in Haiti and here. Demonstrators are demanding the release of those imprisoned, no deportations, and temporary protective status—a form of political asylum—for Haitians.

'Don't deport my mother!' says youth in Houston visit

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

HOUSTON—One hundred people gathered at St. Albert Trapani Church in Houston's southwest side April 1 to meet eight-year-old Saúl Arellano and hear his story.

"I want to tell President Bush to stop the raids and deportations so my mother and other families can stay here in the United States," Arellano said in Spanish. Rev. Walter Coleman and his wife, Emma Lozano, traveled with "Saulito," as he is called, to promote the campaign to oppose raids and deportations.

Saul's mother, Elvira Arellano, is a Mexican-born worker who refused to report for deportation. A former airplane cleaner, she has lived in the United States since 1997. FBI agents arrested her at her home in December 2002 as part of a raid against workers at Chicago's O'Hare airport for allegedly using false Social Security numbers to obtain employment. Since August she has taken sanctuary in Adalberto United Methodist Church in Chicago with Saúl, a U.S. citizen.



Militant/Eric Simpson

March 31 Miami rally demands release of 101 Haitian refugees who arrived March 28

"Elvira Arellano and her son are responding to the 4 million children who, every day when they come home, don't know if their families are going to be there," Coleman said. Anthony Dutrow, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Houston City Council, spoke from the floor during the discussion period. "We are for the immediate and unconditional legalization of all undocumented immigrants just as we marched with millions last spring demanding, 'Legalization now!'" Dutrow said. "Our party stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Elvira Arellano and those resisting deportation. This is a powerful example of resistance that points the way forward in the face of government assault." In Dallas, sev-

eral thousand people rallied in support of rights for immigrant workers in the downtown area that same afternoon chanting "Si, se puede! Yes, we can!"

Police officials estimated that 5,000 turned out. The League of United Latin American Citizens and other groups that organized the rally put the number at 7,000. Some in the crowd and among the speakers said they came to protest a proposal in Farmers Branch, a Dallas suburb, that, if adopted by city voters in May, would make it a crime for landlords to rent to undocumented immigrants.

A march for justice for immigrant workers is planned for Houston on April 28 at 2:00 p.m., starting at Harrisburg and Wayside and marching to Mason Park.

Suit challenges home-care workers' exclusion from U.S. labor protections

BY EDDIE BECK

The U.S. Supreme Court began hearing oral arguments April 16 on a case that challenges federal regulations excluding home-care workers from the overtime and minimum wage requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

The case stems from a suit filed by Evelyn Coke, a home-care worker for 20 years, who sued her former employer—Long Island Care at Home—for overtime pay.

Home aides provide personal assistance to people, mostly those who are elderly or have mental or physical disabilities. Such care often involves helping people with bathing, dressing, preparing

food, and housekeeping.

Many Long Island Care at Home employees put in 60 to 70 hours a week. When Coke last worked there, she was making \$7 an hour and had no health insurance.

Her situation is typical among home-care workers nationally. In 2004, their median pay was \$8.12 an hour. Ten percent of these workers earned less than \$6 an hour. From 1997 to 1999, almost half of all home aides had no health coverage from either their employer or Medicaid.

New York City has filed a legal brief against Coke's case, arguing that including home-care workers in FLSA protec-

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THE MILITANT

'Helps us learn about today's struggles'

"The 'Militant' is a good newspaper for learning about today's struggles. For example, the paper helped get out the word about the fight for a union at the Foster Farms plant here where they now have a union and a contract."

—Catalina Barajas
Livingston, California



Catalina Barajas, at her home April 1, worked 27 years in fruit packing plant.

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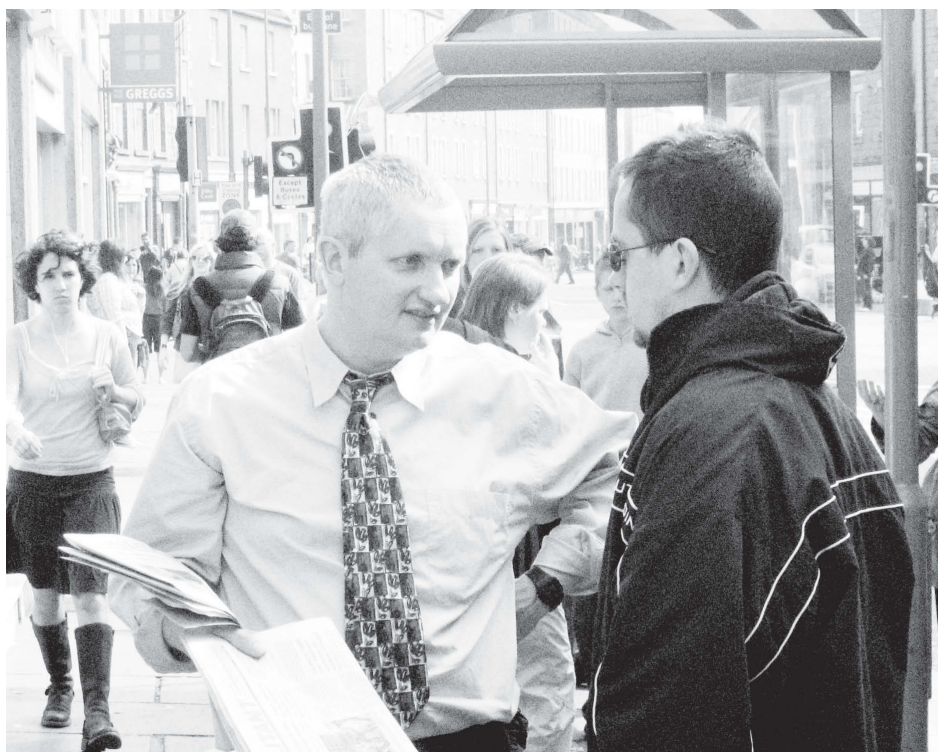
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Militant/Hugh Robertson

Peter Clifford (center, with tie), Communist League candidate for city council in the Leith Walk ward of Edinburgh, Scotland, campaigns April 14 on the streets of that city.

‘London hands off Iran!’

Communist League candidate campaigns in Scotland

BY CAROLINE BELLAMY

EDINBURGH, Scotland, April 14—Peter Clifford, Communist League candidate in the May 3 Scottish elections, campaigned from a street table here today, protesting London’s threats against Iran. Clifford is standing for Edinburgh City Council in the Leith Walk ward.

Responding to the release of 15 marines and sailors Tehran had captured, Clifford said, “Whilst London has been humiliated—its weakness and declining position in the world exposed—it will not back away, but accelerate changes in its armed forces to ratchet up the imperialist pressure on Iran.”

“Hands off Iran,” and “British Troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan,” read

the CL election campaign signs on the literature table. Clifford reported that many passersby agreed that now almost everything that happens in Iraq is blamed on Tehran as a way to gain support for squeezing Iran financially, isolating the country politically, and setting the stage for possible military action by Washington and London against Tehran in the future.

A statement issued by the Communist League election campaign while the 15 troops were held said, “When the heat is on, all the capitalist parties unite to defend their class interests. So the fakery of the Scottish National Party (SNP) and Liberal Democrats criticisms of the war in Iraq or over Trident is made clear by their unity with the government today over Iran and Afghanistan.” Trident refers to London’s submarine-launched ballistic nuclear weapons system.

Clifford emphasized that even if the SNP gets the largest vote in the coming elections, as most media here predict, this will not change the course of imperialist war by the ruling class. The CL election campaign statement points out that London’s denial of Scotland’s national rights is not answered by the SNP, which calls for a Scotland “like Norway or Ireland,” both small capitalist countries.

“Labour, Tory and SNP—they all seek to tie the fortunes of working people to those of the capitalist class—be it north or south of the border,” the CL statement says.

On April 12, Clifford also joined pickets at Grampian Country Food Group in Cambuslang. Workers at six Grampian plants struck that day after being denied a wage increase. Many were also concerned about their pensions. Clifford, a meat worker at a Grampian plant not affected by the walkout, extended solidarity to the strikers, promising to report on their efforts to his workmates.

Clifford joined discussion on how the company had brought in agency (temporary) workers, mainly from eastern Europe, to maintain production. He drew attention to the League’s election campaign statement that points to how workers from other countries can be drawn in to strengthen the unions.

“Two strikers were particularly interested in how the actions last May Day by U.S. workers for legalization of all immigrants had been a gain for all,” Clifford told the *Militant*. “They were also receptive to the need to organize agency workers into the unions.”

Outrage forces firing of radio talk-show host

Continued from front page

trying to salvage the lucrative show, initially announced that Imus would be suspended for two weeks. The radio host issued public apologies several times, as he has after similar incidents in past years. The program brought in \$20 million in annual revenue for CBS and a salary of \$10 million a year for Imus.

As public pressure increased, however, capitalist politicians, media personalities, and newspapers joined the growing calls for his dismissal. Major advertisers such as General Motors and Procter & Gamble pulled their sponsorship of the show. A few protests took place, including a rally by several hundred students at the Rutgers campus here.

An April 10 press conference by members of the Scarlet Knights basketball team—eight of whom are Black and two white—helped put the final nail in the coffin of “Imus in the Morning.” The Rutgers students, who had won prominence by advancing to a national championship game, condemned what Heather Zurich called Imus’s “degrading comments.”

Matee Ajavon said they were speaking out to “show the world that we’re worth more and we can’t be bashed for our gender.”

Essence Carson, junior forward and team captain, said, “We finally speak up for women, not only African American women, but all women,” and noted, “It’s about women across the world.”

In response to defenders of Imus who argued that some rap musicians use



Militant/Eddie Beck

Hundreds rallied April 11 at Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to demand firing of Imus. His show was canceled the next day. Mary Hartman, director of the Institute of Women’s Leadership on campus, speaks to the media.

degrading language against women, Carson said, “I know that rap, hip-hop, and music of that genre has desensitized America and this world to some of the words that they choose to use in their lyrics.” But, she said, “it doesn’t make it any more right for anyone to say it. Not only Mr. Imus... It doesn’t make it right if you’re African American, Caucasian, Asian, it doesn’t matter. All that matters is that it’s wrong.”

Imus’s 30-year-long show has been characterized by his derogatory remarks against Blacks, women, Jews, gays, and others. He has referred to Black sports columnist Bill Rhoden as a “quota hire” and to the New York Knicks as “chest-thumping pimps.” In 1998 he said he had hired his cohost Bernard McGuirk to perform “nigger jokes.” He has labeled

Jews “money-grubbing bastards,” and Arabs “ragheads.”

Imus, a liberal whose program has attracted figures such as TV journalists Tim Russert and Cokie Roberts as well as Democratic politicians John Kerry and Barack Obama, had previously gotten away with his bigoted insults by issuing apologies.

This time, however, he met a sharp response.

“Just growing up in a society as a 20-year-old, I’ve seen a lot of things. I’ve seen things happen to women and I’ve heard about things that happen to women,” Carson said at the April 10 press conference. “You don’t get too many opportunities to stand up for what you know is right.” She added, “We’re glad to have that opportunity.”

The day after the news conference, cable TV network MSNBC announced that it would no longer simulcast Imus’s show. The next day CBS Radio, his primary employer, cancelled the program.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

‘What Does the Cuban Revolution Teach? That Revolution Is Possible.’ Cuba and Latin America Today. Speaker: John Benson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 3029A Bessemer Rd. Tel.: (205) 780-0021.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

In Defense of Affirmative Action. Video presentation of *Struggles in Steel*. Fri., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 3926 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

FLORIDA

Miami

Cuba in Africa: Five Decades of Solidarity. Panel includes: Edmund Abaka, head of Africana Studies, University of Miami; Omari Musa, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Florida in 2006. Fri., April 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 8365 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 206. Tel.: (305) 756-4436.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Breakup of Yugoslavia and the Fight for Self-Determination for Kosova. Speaker: Frank Forrester, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

TEXAS

Houston

Legalize the Undocumented Now! Life and Death Question for the Labor Movement. Speakers: Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers candidate for City Council, and others. Sat., April 28. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

A Working-Class View on Capitalism, the Destruction of the Environment, and the Debate on Global Warming. Speaker: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

—CALENDAR—

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

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Wed., May 2, 5:00 p.m. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and president of Pathfinder Press; Harvey Dong, Asian American Studies; Alex Saragoza, Ethnic Studies and Chicano/Latino Studies; Wesley Ueunten, Asian American Studies; Miriam Solis, UC Berkeley student, Geography and Ethnic Studies. Sponsors include Multicultural Student Development, Chicano/Latino Studies Program, Ethnic Studies Department, Asian American Studies, Eastwind Books of Berkeley. University of Califor-

nia, Berkeley. Multicultural Center/Heller Lounge, Martin Luther King Student Union. For more information, call (510) 642-9077.

NEW YORK

Queens

Sat., April 28, 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and president of Pathfinder Press; Carol Huang, assistant professor, School of Education, City College of New York. *Queens Library, 41-17 Main Street, Flushing.* For more information, call (212) 629-6649.

Puerto Rican *independentista* speaks at Detroit campus

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY CHRISTIAN CASTRO

DETROIT, April 3—More than 120 students gathered at Wayne State University (WSU) here today to hear Rafael Cancel Miranda speak on the fight for independence of Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule. The event was sponsored by the campus Club Hispano, Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies, French Club, Young Socialists, and the Puerto Rican Club of Detroit.

Cancel Miranda, 76, spent 25 years in prison after he and three other *independentistas* carried out an armed attack on the U.S. Congress in 1954 to draw attention to the anticolonial struggle.

"I was a little boy growing up in Puerto Rico," said Cancel Miranda, "and the U.S. Marines were killing my people. They

bombed my village. That was the moment when I knew I would fight back."

Cancel Miranda and four other independence fighters were released from prison in 1979 after a successful international campaign that won broad support for their freedom in Puerto Rico, the United States, and other countries.

Prior to 1954, Cancel Miranda had been sentenced to two years in prison for refusing to serve in the U.S. Army for the Korean War. "Our country was invaded in 1898, and since that year my people have been used for their interests," he said. "When I was 18 they wanted to send me to fight my Korean brothers. Can you imagine that? I refused."

Cancel Miranda was imprisoned after the attack on Congress. "I was sent to Alcatraz, the place where the most feared prisoners were sent. This was an honor for me as a fighter," he said. "They placed me with the white prisoners. In jail we were divided by skin color. But I always explained that I had no color, and no race. I am a Puerto Rican fighter, but I am also Mexican, and Guatemalan, and Venezuelan. I am African as well."

Cancel Miranda then described his admiration for the Cuban Revolution. "I would give my life for the Cuban



Militant/Christian Castro

Rafael Cancel Miranda (right) speaks April 3 at Wayne State University in Detroit. Also on platform are event chairperson Roxana Zuñiga and panelist Martín Koppel.

Revolution," he said. Cuba's president Fidel Castro "dignifies us," he continued. "Cuba dignifies us. Because we know that Cuba is the only territory the U.S. media and the U.S. interests don't control. It is the only country where the people have control over their own means of production and communication."

Also speaking as part of the panel was Martín Koppel, a *Militant* reporter who interviewed Cancel Miranda in what was subsequently published by Pathfinder Press as a pamphlet titled *Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity*. U.S. working people don't benefit from holding Puerto Rico as a colony, Koppel said. "Colonialism is part of the capitalist system and it is enforced by both the Republican and the Democratic parties."

Working people in the United States resisting the bosses' attacks on wages and job and living conditions, like the millions who have mobilized over the last year demanding legalization of all immigrants, are the best allies of those fighting to free Puerto Rico, Koppel said. "To

those who argue that independence for Puerto Rico is impossible, we say Cuba proves them wrong. The Cuban Revolution points the road forward on how to transform society, not just in Puerto Rico but in the United States too."

Roxana Zuñiga, a WSU student who chaired the meeting, said the turnout and political discussion the event generated showed that "it was a success."

Ruben Andrade, a WSU student who attended the event, told the *Militant*, "I came to the meeting because I support the fight against oppression. I didn't know anything about Rafael Cancel Miranda before tonight. But I now feel more inspired and motivated to fight injustice."

After the meeting, Young Socialists and others sold 10 copies of *Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity*, two other pamphlets, as well as 20 copies and six subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Marshall Lambie, a WSU student and YS organizer in Detroit, contributed to this article.

2 weeks: 620 new 'Militant' readers

BY RÓGER CALERO

April 18—"A good day today, in spite of the rainstorm. We sold a subscription going door-to-door in the Black community," said *Militant* supporter Sara Lobman, a garment worker in Newark, New Jersey, in a note she sent April 15.

"Another team met with a longtime subscriber, a truck driver. He renewed his subscription for one year and got copies of *The First and Second Declarations of*

Havana and Teamster Politics. And he made a \$20 contribution to the *Militant* Fund."

These are the kind of reports the *Militant* is getting more and more. At the end of week two of the eight-week campaign to win 2,400 new subscribers by May 27, *Militant* supporters had signed up 620 subscribers and sold thousands of copies of the paper.

"We took a big step forward this week with 13 new readers and two renewals," reported Mary Martin, a meat packer in Seattle.

Many of the new subscriptions come from students, workers, and others attending meetings to promote *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, a book published by Pathfinder Press. At such an event at the University of Washington in Seattle on April 10, 5 people subscribed and 21 bought copies of this book, as well as a range of other titles on revolutionary working-class politics. "The next day, a student who is a subscriber joined a literature table at Western Washington University in Bellingham, along with a member of the Young Socialists and another *Militant* supporter. They sold another five subs," said Martin.

In New Jersey, *Militant* supporters helping to build an April 12 meeting on *Our History Is Still Being Written* at Montclair State University sold 100 copies and five subscriptions to the paper on campus the two days prior to the meeting. At the event itself, another five people subscribed.

As this issue comes off the press, *Militant* supporters are beginning a "target week" of sales that will last through Sunday, April 29. To get involved, contact the *Militant* or its distributors nearest you listed on page 8.

Collection for Militant Fund picks up

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

April 18—Supporters of the *Militant* sent in more than \$11,000 last week for the paper's spring fund drive. That brings donations on hand to nearly \$19,000 in the first two weeks of an eight-week campaign to raise \$100,000.

The drive is about \$6,000 behind schedule. But the pace of contributions picked up last week—a good sign.

The *Militant* needs to receive another \$19,000 by next Wednesday, April 25, to be on target by the end of week three. An average of \$12,500 is needed weekly for the remaining five weeks of the drive.

Supporters in 9 of 27 areas that have taken fund quotas are now on target. Fund-raising activities—including forums, house meetings, phone banking, and door-to-door visits—to reach *Militant* readers can turn this around so that everyone can get on schedule and make their quota in full and on time.

The *Militant* depends on contributions from its readers to cover operating expenses like printing, shipping, and rent. Without generous and timely contributions, reporting trips around the world are not possible either. One example is the just-concluded trip to Venezuela to cover the Women's International Democratic Federation congress and related events. Another upcoming trip is to Cuba to cover an international youth conference in Havana on the Cuban Five.

Spring 'Militant' Subscription Drive March 31 – May 27 ♦ Week 2 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND	60	19	32%
CANADA	130	40	31%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	75	29	39%
Edinburgh	30	3	10%
UK Total	105	32	30%
AUSTRALIA	45	13	29%
UNITED STATES			
San Diego	10	5	50%
San Francisco	110	46	42%
Seattle	70	27	39%
Twin Cities	140	50	36%
Newark, NJ	120	36	30%
Albany, NY	10	3	30%
Birmingham	125	37	30%
Boston	85	23	27%
Detroit	8	2	25%
Miami	170	42	25%
New York	320	75	23%
Chicago	90	21	23%
Philadelphia	120	28	23%
Houston	100	22	22%
Los Angeles	120	25	21%
Des Moines	125	26	21%
Atlanta	115	16	14%
Pittsburgh	65	9	14%
Washington, DC	105	14	13%
Tampa	5	0	0%
U.S. Total	2,013	507	25%
SWEDEN	35	8	23%
ICELAND	12	2	17%
Int'l totals	2,400	621	26%
Goal/Should be	2,400	600	25%

\$100,000 'Militant' Fund Drive March 31–May 27 ♦ Week 2 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
AUSTRALIA	1,400	425	30%
FRANCE	300	80	27%
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	3,800	1,415	37%
Miami	3,200	1,120	35%
Chicago	5,000	1,680	34%
New York	14,000	4,060	29%
Los Angeles	8,000	2,320	29%
Washington, D.C.	3,000	825	28%
Atlanta	6,000	1,510	25%
Pittsburgh	3,000	700	23%
Seattle	7,000	1,050	15%
Newark, NJ	3,500	500	14%
San Francisco	10,000	1,300	13%
Houston	3,000	295	10%
Boston	3,800	370	10%
Twin Cities	5,000	284	6%
Des Moines	2,000	100	5%
Detroit	65	0	0%
Albany, NY	50	0	0%
Birmingham	2,500	0	0%
San Diego	500	0	0%
U.S. total	83,415	17,529	21%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	1,500	235	16%
Edinburgh	400	0	0%
UK total	1,900	235	12%
SWEDEN	500	55	11%
CANADA	3,500	315	9%
NEW ZEALAND	2,800	53	2%
ICELAND	450	0	0%
Int'l totals	93,965	18,692	19%
Goal/Should be	100,000	25,000	25%

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Auto workers in France end strike at Citroën plant

PARIS—More than 400 workers at the Citroën auto assembly plant in Aulnay, 20 miles north of here, voted April 10 to end their six-week strike. Workers were demanding a €300 monthly wage increase, a minimum monthly salary of €1,525 (€1=US\$1.33), the permanent hiring of 700 temporary workers currently employed there, and that the 600 workers over age 55 be allowed to retire.

Citroën refused to increase general wages, but cut costs for transportation to work and for the factory canteen, awarded a one-time bonus of €125, and promised to take no disciplinary actions against the strikers.

The assembly plant strike comes on the heels of a victorious walkout by 170 workers at the Magnetto stamping plant, which is located within the Aulnay site. After a six-day strike the Magnetto workers obtained wage increases of €100, regular contracts for 10 temporary workers, and five extra vacation days.

—Derek Jeffers

UMWA signs contract, ends strike at Pennsylvania, Illinois mines

PITTSBURGH, April 13—Representatives of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and officials from Foundation Coal Holdings Inc. agreed yesterday to end a nine-day strike at three coal mines—Emerald and Cumberland mines in Pennsylvania and the Wabash Mine in Illinois.

The Cumberland and Emerald mines are both now working now under a “me too” version of the 2007 BCOA (Bituminous Coal Operators Association) national agreement, which had been settled and signed in early January.

The agreement with the Wabash Mine, which announced during the walkout it is closing its operations, gives basic benefits, severance, and relocation packages to out-of-work miners. Part of the agreement gives the UMWA “successorship rights,” under which anyone who mines that coal for the next five years must mine it union.

—Ryan Scott



Militant/Julien Daigneault

Picket line at the Trahan pork slaughterhouse near Yamachiche, Quebec, April 7.

Meat packers in Quebec win strike at pork slaughterhouse

TORONTO—After six months on strike, workers at the A. Trahan pork slaughterhouse near Yamachiche, Quebec, voted April 14 by an 87 percent margin to accept a new contract. The workers won their main demands for “union recognition and respect,” said Stéphane Landry, chief shop steward of the United Food and Commercial Workers there.

Union members will be able to meet with union representatives in the plant, who will also get time off for union matters. Surveillance cameras in the factory will be removed from the locker room and cafeteria and the workers will no longer have to punch time cards when they go to the washroom. The 200 strikers won solidarity, including a \$9,000 donation from aluminum workers at Bécancour.

—Annette Kouri and Joe Young

Iowa ‘identity theft’ trial: no justice for workers in capitalist court

BY JOE SWANSON

DES MOINES, Iowa—I attended the March 26–27 trial of Eloísa Núñez Galena, a meat packer from nearby Marshalltown, at the federal district court here. She and 99 other workers were arrested in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid of the Swift pork-processing plant there last December 12. Núñez, 32, born in Mexico and the mother of three children, had worked on the Swift cut floor since 2003.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Nearly 1,300 workers at six Swift plants in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, and Utah were rounded up and thrown in jail. Of these, half have been deported, and 274 workers—including Núñez—are charged with criminal violations related to “identity theft.”

A grand jury indictment charged her on four counts of using a false name and fraudulent documents—charges punishable as felonies.

In my experience I have found that grand juries are often rubber stamps for prosecutors, and are always rigged

against working people.

A jury of 13 was selected out of a pool of 31. She did not have a jury of her peers. The jury was entirely white, mostly professionals and older people, and not a single worker.

Núñez had not seen her three children since her arrest, according to her lawyers, Michael Mayer and Michael Said. U.S. marshals brought her into court in handcuffs, removed only during proceedings. She was not allowed to be closer than eight feet from her family, and during recesses she was taken out of the courtroom.

The prosecutor laid out the government’s case against Núñez in a classic example of turning the victim into the criminal. Her “crime” was using documents with another person’s name to get a job and support her kids. Prosecution witnesses included several individuals from Swift management, including a payroll boss and a human resources translator, as well as the ICE cop who arrested Núñez

in the plant cafeteria.

The defense attorneys argued that Núñez is a good, honest worker who only wanted to support her family.

During a recess, Said explained to me that even if Núñez had been found not guilty, according to current immigration laws she would be handed over to ICE agents, placed before an immigration judge, and in all likelihood deported.

The jury was out just a little over two hours. It found the meat packer guilty on all counts. The trial lasted two days, and there were only a few present in the courtroom who were supporters of Núñez.

Like other Swift workers arrested in the raids, Eloísa Núñez was determined to fight the charges, and she hoped she could do it through the courts.

The trial showed graphically that working people cannot get a fair trial in the courts of capitalism.

It’s no accident that the government targeted workers at Swift. Last May Day the workers at the Marshalltown

plant forced the company to shut down. This happened all over the country as hundreds of thousands walked off the job to demand the legalization of all undocumented immigrants. The government is now working overtime to reverse the solidarity and self-confidence these workers gained.

There will be more trials against workers at Swift in the coming weeks. The labor movement needs to defend these workers and win broader support for them. Taking such a stance strengthens our ability as workers to unite in the face of increasing assaults by the bosses and their government.

All charges against these workers should be dropped. None should serve time in prison. None should face deportation.

We should demand that Núñez and Lorena Andrade Rodríguez, another Swift worker recently convicted, be released from prison now and their convictions reversed.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 30, 1982

The decision of the Reagan administration to reimpose a ban on travel to Cuba is an ominous step toward war in Central America and the Caribbean. It must be vigorously denounced by all those who support democratic rights and oppose another Vietnam.

Announced April 19, the travel ban goes into effect May 15.

These moves are highly dangerous, but they are also a product of weakness. They occur in the context of the U.S. rulers’ inability to block fresh advances by the guerrilla forces in El Salvador and Guatemala, despite the charade of elections.

The great fear of the U.S. capitalists is that workers and farmers in these countries will follow Nicaraguans, Grenadians, and Cubans in kicking out their imperialist exploiters and establishing a government that acts in their interests.



April 29, 1957

On April 1, Joyce Cowley addressed a meeting of Rutgers students in New Brunswick, N.J. About 36 students attended the meeting.

In her brief introductory remarks Mrs. Cowley said: “The Socialist Workers Party is a Marxist Party which advocates a revolutionary change from a capitalist to a socialist method of production. This will be achieved through class struggle and the independent political action of the working class, in alliance with the Negro people and small farmers.”

She showed why prejudices did not disappear when slavery was abolished. “Today it is still economically profitable and a powerful weapon in the hands of employers and their political representatives to weaken and divide the working class. Race prejudice is now being challenged by the rising tide of colonial revolution, which has in large measure inspired the Negroes of the South.”



April 30, 1932

The forty-fourth International Labor Day on May 1, 1932 takes place at a time when the decline of the capitalist system is reaching new depths, when the most intense and most wide spread of its economic crises is approaching unprecedented aggravation.

A tremendous and immediate danger is hanging over the head of the Soviet Union and the working class: the menace of Hitlerism which is out to crush the strongest ally of the U.S.S.R—the powerful German proletariat.

The First of May, International Labor Day originated as a holiday of the American workers, it grew out of the struggle for the eight hour day in the eighties of the last century. On the First of May, this year, the American working class is called upon to rally to the side of its German brothers, to the defense of its victorious Russian brothers, to the support to the workers’ fatherland, the U.S.S.R.

Home aides’ case

Continued from page 2

tions would cost City Hall \$250 million. There are currently 60,000 home aides working in the city.

FLSA requires employers to pay workers minimum wage and overtime, and prohibits child labor. It includes a series of exemptions to those protections. Coke’s suit challenges the one for those “employed in domestic service” who “provide companionship services for individuals who (because of age or infirmity) are unable to care for themselves.” The Department of Labor has also issued regulations exempting home-care workers.

Craig Becker, a lawyer for the Service Employees International Union, which includes 400,000 home aides, is representing Coke. Becker says the federal regulations are contradictory and violate the intent of FLSA.

Seattle event examines book by Chinese Cuban generals

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE—About 130 people, many of them students, attended a program at the University of Washington here April 10 on *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

Moderator Bettie Luke, a member of the Organization of Chinese Americans, said the book recounted a little-known history about the Chinese diaspora, including the role of the three authors in Cuba's revolution.

"I was impressed by the Cuban role in Angola, which I had never heard about," she said, referring to the Cuban volunteer combatants who helped defeat invasions by the South African apartheid regime.

Moon-Ho Jung, an Asian American history professor, described how Chinese indentured laborers and Blacks in Cuba were allies in the fight against Spanish colonialism in the 19th century. Jung is the author of *Coolies and Cane*, a book on Chinese labor in Louisiana's sugarcane plantations after the Civil War.

"Cuba and the Philippines have similar histories except that in Cuba they made a revolution," said Freedom Allah Siyam, political education officer of BAYAN-USA, an anti-imperialist Filipino group.

Siyam said BAYAN-USA is waging a protest campaign against repression by rightist death squads in the Philippines, which have abducted and killed hundreds of opponents of the U.S.-backed government. He added that the FBI has been harassing him and other Filipino activists in Seattle as part of its "war on terror."

Tony Chan, author of *Gold Mountain: The Chinese in the New World*, described the discrimination against Chinese in Canada, where he was raised. "Canadians celebrate July 1 as Canada Day, but we see this as a day of shame, as it was on July 1, 1923, when the Chinese exclusion act was passed."

Martin Koppel, one of the interviewers of the three generals for the Pathfinder book, thanked Bettie Luke for giving him a tour of the Wing Luke Asian Museum, which highlights facts such as the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II and the 1960s struggles by Chinese and Blacks in Seattle against racist housing restrictions. "Here too the history of the struggles of Asian Americans is still being written," he said.

Koppel said the book explains what a socialist revolution is and how millions of

ordinary men and women have defended it for the past 48 years. "This book is valuable for fighting workers here to see that working people can take power out of the hands of the ruling rich," he said.

In the discussion period, one person asked whether Beijing was becoming a superpower that would carry out policies mirroring Washington's earlier anti-Chinese immigration measures.

Tony Chan replied that China is not an imperialist power. Koppel added that Chinese workers and peasants made a socialist revolution, and that despite "market reforms" by Beijing, imperialism has not succeeded in reimposing capitalism. Workers here, he said, should oppose the U.S. bosses' chauvinist, protectionist campaign against Chinese imports.

A young construction worker asked how working people in the United States could unite despite divisions that are fostered and whether a revolution is possible here. Koppel pointed to the history of class struggle in this country, covered up in history textbooks, that shows the revolutionary potential of workers and farmers, and how the working class has been strengthened over the decades. "The lesson of Cuba is how a revolutionary organization and a program can tap the capacities



PITTSBURGH, April 5—Thirty people attended a meeting here today at the University of Pittsburgh on *Our History Is Still Being Written*. The panel included Cecilia Green (at podium), a sociology professor at the University of Pittsburgh; Martin Koppel (left), who helped conduct interviews for the book; and Joseph Adjaye, director of the university's African Studies Program (right).

—ARRIN HAWKINS

of working people to wage a struggle and win," he said.

Bettie Luke ended the meeting by thanking the sponsors, which included the University of Washington's Department of American Ethnic Studies, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, Latin American Studies Program, the Chicano student group MEChA, and BAYAN-USA.

One of the students in attendance, Andrea Lawson from Western Washing-

ton University in Bellingham, told the *Militant* after the meeting that she has read the book and likes it. Among other things, "as a student taking up environmental studies, I was impressed with how the Cuban government is taking serious steps to clean up the environment."

Members of the audience bought 21 copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* in English and Spanish and a dozen other Pathfinder titles, and five subscribed to the *Militant*.

New Jersey panel discusses 'Our History is Still Being Written'

BY MIKE TABER

MONTCLAIR, New Jersey—Some 60 people attended a meeting April 12 at Montclair State University (MSU) on *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. The meeting was sponsored by the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), Unified Asian American Student Organization, and eight other campus groups.

"When I was introduced to this book, I had little idea what it was about," said Mabel Almonte, secretary of LASO. "All I had heard about Cuba were lies."

In reading it, however, she learned what drove Cubans to rebel against the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. She also discovered how Cuba since 1959 has eliminated illiteracy and provided free education and health care to all, has given internationalist aid in many countries of Latin America, Africa, and Asia, and has instilled new values in the population.

Almonte said she liked a quote by Fidel

Castro in the book: A people "not willing to fight for the freedom of others will never be ready to fight for its own."

Yoland Skeete, director of the Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center in Newark, also spoke. She is working on a book titled *When Newark Had a Chinatown*.

In the 19th century British colonialists brought Chinese to Skeete's native Trinidad as indentured laborers to replace Black slaves, she recounted. They thought the Chinese would remain isolated from the Black population. But the Chinese mixed in, she said, citing her own Chinese-born grandfather. To halt this process the colonialists stopped bringing in Chinese workers and replaced them with contract labor from India.

"When I moved to Newark, I was unaware that a Chinese community had existed there," Skeete said. Walking her dog one day, she came across a building with a Chinese inscription. She began investigating and uncovering the history of Newark's Chinatown of earlier decades, a task to which she has dedicated herself.

Martin Koppel, one of the interviewers for the book, outlined some key points in it and how the Cuban Revolution provides an example for those seeking to fight the injustices of capitalism and transform society.

Replying to a question about women's role in the Cuban revolutionary struggle, Koppel said Cubans refer to the fight for women's equality as a "revolution within the revolution." It began in the Rebel Army during the revolutionary war, he said, with the creation of an all-female platoon. Since then the revolutionary leadership has taken steps to draw women into the workforce and into all spheres of society, from the unions to the defense of the revolution.

A questioner asked about a statement by Skeete that in the 1990s, when Cuba was suffering scarcities of school supplies

after the loss of favorable trade relations with the Soviet Union, she had observed on a visit there that education continued to advance and that some of the best minds in the world were being created.

In Cuba, Skeete replied, "people are hungry for knowledge."

Koppel added that this hunger is a result of the revolution. "In the U.S., schools have nothing to do with education," he said. "For working people, they are designed to fit you for a role as an obedient worker for a boss. For those who do have opportunities to further schooling, they aim to instill a 'me-first, to hell with the rest' mentality. But in Cuba, education is a necessity so workers and farmers can run society."

In response to another question Almonte said, "Teachers always tell us we can make a difference. But after reading this book I saw it is possible to make change, if you're willing to fight for it."

She added, "When Fidel Castro got involved in the struggle in Cuba, he was just a student like us, a student of law. If they did it in Cuba, why can't we?"

At the end of the meeting, Almonte raffled off five copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* that LASO had bought. In addition to the five delighted winners, four others bought copies of the book.

U.S. occupiers to cordon off parts of Baghdad

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, April 17—The U.S. military is planning to cordon off large sections of Baghdad, drawing on counterinsurgency tactics that failed in Vietnam. Its so-called "gated communities" would be open only to residents with newly issued ID cards,

Continued on page 7

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WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

How British Empire profited from slave trade

BY CELIA PUGH

LONDON—On March 25, 1807, British legislation outlawed the slave trade. The British government used the 200th anniversary of that decision to parade its alleged moral worth.

Prime Minister Anthony Blair expressed “deep sorrow and regret for our nation’s role in the slave trade” and joined an anniversary service with the queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Churches and schools are organizing similar events this year.

But the truth is that the economic self-interest of industrial capitalism, not taking the moral high ground, was the driving force for abolishing slavery.

In 1833 new laws allowed gradual abolition of slavery in the British Empire, only to be replaced by indentured servitude and wage slavery. British slave owners received £20 million in compensation, and “freed” slaves were held as “apprentices” for up to six years. From 1838 to 1917, British sugar plantation owners in Jamaica brought more than 30,000 indentured laborers from the Indian subcontinent, as well as about 5,000 Chinese, a process repeated in other British colonies.

Slavery and the slave trade were key to the “primitive accumulation of capital” that made Britain the main economic and military power of the 19th century.

From 1520 on, sanctified by the church and legalized by the crown, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and English vessels traded slaves to the West Indies.

At first the colonial planters relied on white bonded labor from England. Merchants bought servants who were kidnapped off the streets or deported from prisons. After William Cromwell’s conquest of Ireland in the mid-1600s, British troops seized 100,000 Irish, selling them as slaves to English tobacco planters. However, white bonded labor was insufficient. Many were released after fixed terms, or escaped with ease, merging with the white population.

By the early 1700s African slaves, branded by their black skin, displaced white servants in the British colonies. Between 1713 and 1780 an estimated 20,000 African slaves were carried each year to America. Following the 1713 war with Spain, England had a monopoly on the slave trade.

The triangular trade in slaves from English ports created massive fortunes

for the British ruling class. But the American Revolution reduced their fortunes to the British-owned plantations in the Caribbean. The French Revolution in 1792 inspired slave revolts, the largest being in French San Domingo (Haiti). The British colonialists, at war with the French, invaded, hoping to seize it and prevent slave uprisings in their nearby colony of Jamaica. The British defeat shook the establishment, with growing concern that the slave trade was a liability.

The 19th century industrial revolution transformed British manufacture into large-scale industry, with a factory system and wage labor. Economists like Adam Smith condemned the slave system as expensive and restrictive.

An offshoot of the industrial revolution was a transformation of cotton production in the U.S. South. Wage slavery in the mills plus chattel slavery on U.S. plantations put fabulous profits into the pockets of English textile magnates. British manufacturers who prided themselves for abolishing slavery benefited from slavery in the United States.

From 1850 on, the restrictive character of plantation slavery signaled a crisis for the U.S. southern states. The need to sink enormous sums of money annually into slaves and land devoured the planter’s surplus capital. English capital found more attractive investments elsewhere.

The 1865 victory of the northern states in the U.S. Civil War sealed the fate of the slave-based economy. During this revolutionary war the English landed aristocrats pressed the British ruling class to back the southern states. When the Union navy of the North blockaded cotton shipments to British mills, laid-off cotton workers refused to endorse the breaking of the blockade in an act of solidarity.

London ‘humiliated’ in capture of 15 of its troops by Tehran

Continued from front page of the 15 and Iran’s ongoing nuclear program.

The White House said it was “very concerned” at the April 9 announcement by Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that Tehran was now in a position to enrich uranium on “an industrial scale.”

Meanwhile, Washington continues to hold a number of Iranian citizens, including five Iranian security officers it captured during a January 11 raid in Er-

U.S. military occupiers to cordon off sections of Baghdad

Continued from page 6 reported the British daily *Independent* in its April 1 issue.

Meanwhile, Muqtada al-Sadr, the Shiite cleric who heads the Mahdi militia, ordered six members of his parliamentary bloc holding cabinet posts in the administration of Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki to resign, according to an April 16 Reuters dispatch. The resignations are to protest Maliki’s refusal to set a timetable for U.S. troops to withdraw. They are another sign of deepening divisions in the Shiite-dominated government under pressure from Washington’s escalating imperialist war in Iraq.

In a related development, Sunni-led militias are taking their distance from al-Qaeda in Iraq, accusing the latter of killing, kidnapping, and torturing dozens

of their members and followers.

According to the *Independent*, the new counterinsurgency measure would gate off 30 of Baghdad’s 89 districts. Gen. David Petraeus, Washington’s top general in Iraq, drew on the experience of comparable measures in Tal Afar, where U.S. and Iraqi government troops drove out Sunni-led militias in 2005.

Similar measures failed during the U.S. war against Vietnam and the French colonial occupation of Algeria.

The new step is part of the overall crackdown in the Iraqi capital and Anbar province being led by an additional 21,500 U.S. troops. It includes placing five mechanized brigades south and east of the capital, three of which are to be positioned between Baghdad and the Iranian border as a threat to Tehran.

Venezuela march celebrates coup defeat

CARACAS, Venezuela, April 13—One million people rallied here today to mark the fifth anniversary of the reversal of a short-lived, U.S.-backed coup against Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez. The action took place in the context of a sharpening class confrontation



Militant/Maura DeLuca

over ownership of the country’s oil, utilities, and telecommunications.

At a military ceremony just before the demonstration, Chávez announced plans to send troops to the Orinoco River basin on May 1 to enforce the planned government takeover of a majority stake in the \$30-billion dollar oil reserves there. The change, which will give the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA at least a 60 percent share in the reserves, will affect the holdings of U.S. oil companies Chevron, ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips, as well as British Petroleum, the Norwegian Statoil, and French Total.

Another flashpoint in the class conflict here is the April 10 announcement that the government would nationalize the country’s largest phone company, CANTV, by June 4. In December, the Venezuelan government announced it would not renew the broadcast license of the private channel Radio Caracas Television (RCTV) when it expires in May.

RCTV aided the April 11, 2002, coup that installed Pedro Carmona, then-head of the employers’ federation Fedecámaras, as president of Venezuela. Washington immediately recognized the new regime, which annulled the constitution, dissolved congress, dismissed the Supreme Court, overturned a land reform law, and ended oil shipments to Cuba on favorable terms. Hundreds of thousands of working people poured into the streets demanding reinstatement of the elected government. The coup attempt collapsed in face of divisions in the armed forces and the popular mobilizations. Chávez returned to office April 13. Since then, workers and peasants have mobilized and defeated two other attempts by Venezuelan capitalists and their U.S. backers to oust the Chávez administration—a 2003 bosses’ “strike” and a 2004 presidential recall referendum.

Seated on the platform at today’s rally were leaders of the Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF), who were here for the WIDF congress. Hundreds of congress delegates and guests from dozens of countries joined the demonstration as well.

—OLYMPIA NEWTON

Protests organized here around the 200th anniversary of the end of the British slave trade include demands for an official apology for slavery.

Today the hangovers of slavery, anti-Black and other racist discrimination, can

be abolished only through working-class struggles that help lead the toilers toward taking power from the hands of the capitalist class and joining the worldwide fight to build a society based on human solidarity—socialism.

bil, in Iraqi Kurdistan. At the same time, the U.S. Senate is set to approve Zalmay Khalilzad, former U.S. ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan who has spoken out for more aggressive action against Iran, as U.S. envoy to the UN.

From the London *Times* to the weekly *Economist*, newspaper editorials here have commented on the capture of the British troops as a defeat for London.

The *Daily Telegraph* targeted the Royal Navy’s “incompetence” in providing insufficient cover for the operation,

and the apologies of the detained sailors on Iranian TV. “The old military practice of giving name, rank and number, and no more, has obviously been abandoned,” the paper opined. “It appears that the Royal Navy has a lot to answer for.”

Unanimous was the derision that greeted the decision, which was subsequently reversed, of Vice Admiral Adrian Johns, backed by Secretary of State for Defence Des Browne, to allow the freed troops to sell their stories to the press.

When one of the sailors wrote that he was “crying like a baby” in his prison cell, the *Times* said his remark would not offer “a foreign army or terrorist unit any reason to fear encountering British forces in combat.”

Former defense secretary Michael Portillo called for Browne to “consider his position,” and an online petition for his resignation has been posted on the Downing Street web site.

Tehran “should not have been allowed to capture our personnel,” Conservative Party defense spokesperson Liam Fox said, adding that the Tories would make the military’s state an election issue.

Meanwhile the government is implementing a major upgrade of naval hardware designed for expeditionary warfare. A new generation of ships is being introduced, including landing platform docks designed for dispatch of amphibious craft, and there are plans for two new large aircraft carriers.

The Bolshevik press in October 1917 Russian Revolution

Below is an excerpt from *The History of the Russian Revolution, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. The unfolding of an event that transformed the history of the 20th century is told by one of its central leaders, Leon Trotsky. The section excerpted below describes the detailed attention the Bolsheviks gave to their press and general propaganda, and the leverage this provided to the revolutionary movement, from the days of repression in July 1917 to the revolutionary victory in October of that year. Printed by permission of Pathfinder Press.*



Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin reviewing copy of *Pravda* at his desk in Moscow, 1918.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

Upon a close examination, the means and implements of the Bolshevik agitation seem not only completely out of proportion to the political influence of Bolshevism, but simply amazing in their insignificance. Up to the July days the party had 41 publications counting weeklies and monthlies, with a total circulation, counting everything, of 320,000. After the July raids the circulation dwindled by half. At the end of August the central organ of the Party was printing 50,000 copies. In the days when the party was winning over the Petrograd and Moscow

soviets, the cash in the treasury of the Central Committee amounted to only 30,000 paper rubles.

The intelligentsia hardly came into the Bolshevik party at all. A broad layer of so-called "old Bolsheviks," from among the students who had associated themselves with the revolution of 1905, had since turned into extraordinarily successful engineers, physicians, government officials, and they now unceremoniously showed the party the hostile aspect of their backs. Even in Petrograd there was felt at every step a lack of journalists, speakers, agitators; and the provinces were wholly deprived of what few they had had. "There are no leaders; there are no politically literate people who can explain to the masses what the Bolsheviks want!"—this cry came from hundreds of remote corners, and especially from the front. In the villages there were almost no Bolshevik nuclei at all. Postal communications were in complete disorder. The local organizations, left to their own devices, would occasionally reproach the Central Committee—and not without foundation—that it was concerning itself only with Petrograd.

How was it that with this weak apparatus and this negligible circulation of

the party press, the ideas and slogans of Bolshevism were able to take possession of the people? The explanation is very simple: those slogans which correspond to the keen demands of a class and an epoch create thousands of channels for themselves. A red-hot revolutionary medium is a high conductor of ideas. The Bolshevik papers were read aloud, were read all to pieces. The most important articles were learned by heart, recited, copied, and wherever possible reprinted. "Our staff printing plant," says the soldier, Pereiko, "performed a great service for the revolution. How many individual articles from *Pravda* were reprinted by us, and how many small brochures, very close and comprehensible to the soldiers! And all these were swiftly distributed along the front with the help of air mails, bicycles and motorcycles. . . ." At the same time the bourgeois press, although supplied to the front free of cost in millions of copies, hardly found a reader. The heavy bales remained unopened. This boycott of the "patriotic" press at times assumed a demonstrative form. Representatives of the 18th Siberian division passed a resolution asking the bourgeois parties to stop sending literature, inasmuch as it was "fruitlessly used to boil

the hot water for tea." The Bolshevik press was very differently employed. Hence the coefficient of its useful—or if you prefer, harmful—effectiveness was incomparably higher.

The usual explanation of the success of Bolshevism reduced itself to a remark upon "the simplicity of its slogans," which fell in with the desires of the masses. In this there is a certain element of truth. The wholeness of the Bolshevik policy was due to the fact that, in contrast to the "democratic parties," the Bolsheviks were free from unexpressed or semi-expressed gospels reducing themselves in the last analysis to a defense of private property. However, that distinction alone does not exhaust the matter. . . . What distinguished Bolshevism was that it subordinated the subjective goal, the defense of the interests of the popular masses, to the laws of revolution as an objectively conditioned process. . . .

Revolutions are always verbose, and the Bolsheviks did not escape from this law. But whereas the agitation of the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries was scattered, self-contradictory and oftenest of all evasive, the agitation of the Bolsheviks was distinguished by its concentrated and well thought-out character. The Compromisers talked themselves out of difficulties; the Bolsheviks went to meet them. A continual analysis of the objective situation, a testing of slogans upon facts, a serious attitude to the enemy even when he was none too serious, gave special strength and power of conviction to the Bolshevik agitation.

The party press did not exaggerate success, did not distort the correlation of forces; did not try to win by shouting. The school of Lenin was a school of revolutionary realism. The data supplied by the Bolshevik press of 1917 are proving, in the light of historic criticism and the documents of the epoch, incomparably more correct than the data supplied by all the other newspapers. This correctness was a result of the revolutionary strength of the Bolsheviks, but at the same time it reinforced their strength.

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Free 5 Iranians U.S. holds in Iraq

Free the five Iranian officials U.S. forces hold in Iraq! That's what working people around the world should demand.

The five were abducted in January in a botched U.S. raid in Iraqi Kurdistan, the real aim of which was to capture two senior Iranian representatives on an official visit to the area.

Washington's refusal to release the five Iranians is part of the imperialist campaign to brand Tehran the aggressor in Iraq and the region. Iran's government is supplying lethal bombs to "terrorists" in Iraq and is helping to instigate violence in the country, we are told. "Exporter of murder," scream U.S. and other big-business media about Tehran, because Iranian-made arms were reportedly captured in Afghanistan.

What a gall from the "civilized hyenas," as Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin aptly called the imperialist powers! Washington, London, and their allies invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, have occupied them for nearly half a decade, have tortured and humiliated prisoners of war they captured in these countries, and

have fostered ethnic divisions, helping to fuel a brutal civil war and communal killings with no end in sight in Iraq.

This is turning the victim into the criminal. A treatment millions of African Americans and other working people are intimately familiar with from cops in the United States. A practice many workers know is often used against them by the bosses and their hired guns when they go on strike.

The kidnapping of the five Iranians is a piece of the U.S.-led campaign to prevent Iran from developing nuclear power—needed by that semicolonial nation to reverse its underdevelopment fostered by imperialist domination—on the claim that Tehran is secretly building atomic weapons. But it is Washington, the only government to ever use a nuclear bomb—and that against an Asian people—that poses a threat of annihilation to the people of the world.

We should demand: Release the five Iranian officials held in Iraq! Lift the sanctions against Iran! Hands off Iran!

No fines! End travel ban to Cuba!

The U.S. Treasury Department and New York authorities should keep their hands off the Beacon High School students and their teacher who visited Cuba in early April. Drop the threat of fines and other punitive measures against them now!

Instead of prosecuting U.S. residents for seeing Cuba for themselves, Washington should lift its criminal travel restrictions and end its economic war against that Caribbean nation.

U.S. officials claim they maintain an embargo because Cuba is a "dictatorship" and they want to foster "democracy." That's a lie. Before 1959, Washington backed a tyranny that tortured and murdered workers, peasants, and students while helping U.S. businessmen plunder Cuba's wealth. That came to an end when millions of Cubans, headed by the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement, overthrew the dictatorship and established a workers and farmers government, opening the door to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Washington began its political and economic war on Cuba after the revolutionary government gave land to peasants, encroaching on the interests of U.S. and Cuban landlords. But the Cuban people and their revolutionary leadership would

not be intimidated. Workers and peasants wiped out illiteracy within a year. They took over industry and banking, running these for the needs of the majority, not the profits of a handful. They went further than any other country in uprooting racist discrimination, and integrated women into the workforce and every sphere of social life. Cuba has aided national liberation struggles worldwide and today has thousands of volunteer doctors, teachers, and agricultural specialists serving in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. In Cuba, workers and farmers are the ones who decide their economic, social, and political affairs—not a few billionaire parasites.

To Wall Street, *that's* "dictatorship." To Cuban working people, that is freedom. And to millions around the world, the Cuban Revolution is an example they want to emulate—a dangerous example, in the eyes of U.S. big business!

That's why the U.S. government's "cold war" against Cuba has been uninterrupted for 47 years, under Democratic and Republican administrations alike.

The travel restrictions are not only an attempt to strangle the Cuban people. They are an attack on the rights of U.S. residents. Washington should lift the travel ban and all trade restrictions, and normalize relations with Cuba.

N.Y. students may face fines over Cuba trip

Continued from front page

U.S. travel restrictions to the Caribbean nation.

The *New York Post* sparked a controversy over the trip, running a front-page banner headline in its April 16 issue, which read, "Club Red: West Side school in illegal Fidel trip." The New York mayor and officials at the city Department of Education then spoke in opposition to it.

At the school here on Manhattan's Upper West Side, however, the majority of students and teachers interviewed today voiced support for the right to travel to Cuba and backed history teacher Nathan Turner, who accompanied the students to Cuba and now faces the brunt of the attack.

"People should have the right to travel to Cuba," said Kyle, a senior at the school who asked that he be identified only by his first name. "I think he's a great teacher," he said of Turner. In addition to trips to Cuba, Turner has organized six trips to New Orleans, Kyle said, to help with the rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm the biggest capitalist ever and I support him," said Cookie Muller, another student. "He's the best teacher I've ever had."

One student who participated in the trip said she wanted

very much to speak to the *Militant* to show how positive the experience was. But she did not wish to contravene the wishes of the school that students not talk to the media about this matter. A number of other students declined interviews on the same grounds.

The school has organized a number of trips to Cuba in the past. But as Washington has tightened its restrictions on travel to Cuba, it has become more difficult.

This time the city's Board of Education tried to block the trip. "It should not have happened," Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, told the press. "We expressly said no."

According to the *New York Sun*, Department of Education official David Cantor said an investigation by the department could result in Turner's firing.

The president of the United Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten, has come out in Turner's defense. "The teacher apparently did everything in his power to make sure the parents and students were informed that the school did not sanction the trip," she told the press. "This teacher was willing to give of his free time and expertise to further the education of his students and, if he took them anywhere but Cuba, he would be applauded."

'Migra' raids

Continued from front page

happen to us, at least not in this way," he said, describing how ICE agents entered his house at 6:00 a.m. while he was away working.

The immigration cops knocked on the door of the trailer, García said. When his wife, Leah García, opened the door to see who it was the ICE agents pushed their way in and forced her to stay seated in the living room, demanding to see her ID. Meanwhile, other federal cops had surrounded the trailer, the Garcías said.

This is how the immigration cops conducted their sweep of trailer parks and other working-class neighborhoods, many workers said.

The statements by Enrique and Leah García, and by others, contradicted the claim by ICE spokesman Tim Counts that immigration agents enter homes only after getting permission. Counts also denied the statements of many workers that federal agents are targeting Latinos by asking for their IDs. "That is absolutely false," Counts said. "We do not target people based on ethnicity. We target based on illegal behavior."

Many working people, however, said ICE agents outside the local Wal-Mart store were asking only Latinos for IDs.

Workers interviewed by the *Militant* said they know of many people in town who have moved temporarily to hotels or to friends' houses, or have locked themselves at home and are not sending their children to school nor going to work, after the ICE raids.

Rodolfo Maldonado, who works at a Jenny-O plant here, said 80 percent of the Latino workers in the plant had not reported to work for several days. Many said they feared a similar raid as the one last December at the Swift meatpacking plant in Worthington, Minnesota, may take place here.

Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc. is based in Willmar and is owned by Hormel Foods Corporation. It is one of the largest turkey processors and marketers in the world.

Workers here attempted unsuccessfully to unionize the plant in 2003 because of bad working conditions, Maldonado said.

Among the 130 people who gathered today outside the Ramsey County Jail was Rosa Serto. She described the way in which ICE agents broke her window to get into her house and the denigrating words they used against her and others, like *pendeja* (damn ass). Serto said the cops handcuffed two young guys living there and took them out into the cold almost naked. "They threw them in the back of the truck like animals," Serto said.

Other workers in the area reacted with outrage to this assault and with determination to fight. "Going out on more marches and demanding our rights is the best way to put pressure on the government to stop this," said Elmer Linares, a meat packer at Dakota Premium Foods and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 in South St. Paul, Minnesota.

Those interviewed at Willmar said actions are needed to press for an end to raids and deportations. "There has to be a big change," said Enrique García. "More marches would be great, for us to get together and fight for our rights."

Immigrant rights groups in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas are building a march in Minneapolis on May 1 to demand: "Stop the raids and deportations! Unconditional legalization for all!"

The ICE sweep of Willmar was part of Homeland Security's nationwide Operation Cross Check. In a similar two-day operation in North Carolina that culminated April 11, ICE agents arrested 40 immigrant workers, according to North Carolina's *News Blaze*.

LETTERS

Firing of Don Imus

Thank you for the front page cover-

CORRECTION

In the April 23 issue, part of the concluding sentence to the article "'La migra' raids pork plant in Illinois; 60 workers in jail" was inadvertently dropped in the print edition. The full sentence should have read: "The only thing I ask . . . is that they treat us humanely."

age on the Imus issue. Too often the "mainstream media" lightly covers a story like this then moves on to something more trivial. Thank you also for reporting that his remarks were sexist as well as racist—another point the "mainstream media" attempts to smooth over.

People not of an oppressed minority in this country need to understand that as long as oppression continues, words and phrases historically associated with that oppression cut like a

knife. Especially when used by white males in a position of influence like Mr. Imus.

David Perry
Houston, Texas

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