May Day Shock Waves Resound

May 1st march in Chicago.
Dear RCP,

I'm writing to tell you I joined in the May Day march in Oakland. It was my first political rally in my life. I fought all the fears about coming. My Dad told me to set the example. We made our stand. I fear I might be in jail one of these days so I stayed off the job and joined up with some friends, we feel that this year's May Day had a greater momentum than ever, and I am sure that this year will play a very important role in the international revolutionary movement of their respective countries.

I'll look back and say, ya, I marched on May Day 1980. The march particularly because of the escalating moves toward war by the two superpowers. "I'm against the draft...when they call me I won't go. I'll fight for every right I have. Nobody's going to make me go." A Puerto Rican woman who works in a garment shop downtown came to the rally site early with her homemade flag saying that she just had to come to May Day to build the unity of the working class.

In my personal opinion, and that of many others, we feel that this year's May Day held a greater momentum than ever, and I am sure that this year will play a very important role in the international revolutionary movement of their respective countries. This year was a revolutionary May Day in the USA, where class-conscious workers of many nationalities stood with the working class of the world, proclaiming their intention to whip U.S. imperialism's ass when the time is ripe and what was especially important for these foreign-born workers was the occasion of whether the U.S. workers will take up May Day.

One older Spanish-speaking worker told us how he'd never seen this kind of enthusiasm and excitement over May Day before. It is true for a number of foreign-born workers that May Day is a part of their tradition and of the revolutionary movement of their respective countries. But this was a revolutionary May Day in the USA, where class-conscious workers of many nationalities stood with the working class. These revisionists must be overthrown. Their oppression will see to it that they all be freed at once.

Dear R.C.P.,

I'm writing to tell you I joined in the May Day march in Oakland. It was my first political rally in my life. I fought all the fears about coming. My Dad told me to set the example. We made our stand. I fear I might be in jail one of these days so I stayed off the job and joined up with some friends, we feel that this year's May Day had a greater momentum than ever, and I am sure that this year will play a very important role in the international revolutionary movement of their respective countries.

Dear Revolutionary Worker,

I watched the Revolutionary May Day marches on TV and I've seen the Rich man's police and reactionary agents of the capitalists attack the working class and their holiday. I will give you an idea of the struggle around May Day in this Ohio prison. On Flag day a brother refused to work and he spent May Day in the hole. The recent strike of 250,000 metal workers in Sao Paolo is only one example of the bravery of these workers fighting the bourgeoisie, even under such hard dictatorship. Helicopters with machine-guns didn't scare these workers. The assassination of the workers' leader—Salvotra Diaz—last November brought thousands of workers to protest in the streets of Sao Paolo against such brutal repression.

Today, the Brazilian working class is united in the workers' day—May 1st. Today is not a day to be commemorated. It is a day to fight, until the end of all exploitation. One man by another nation, one man by another man.

In New York City one of the places where May Day has had a profound effect is among workers—many from Latin American countries—who live and work in the streets and in the sweatshops of the garment center. Last issue we reported that one Dominican worker said that, to the best of his knowledge hundreds of thousands of workers did not work on that day. Since then more workers have told us of well over 100 workers who stayed off their jobs that day. Some of these workers refused to work on that day, others worked, but demanded different shops, struggling with their co-workers to take up May Day.

One older Spanish-speaking worker told us how he'd never seen this kind of enthusiasm and excitement over May Day before. It is true for a number of foreign-born workers that May Day is a part of their tradition and of the revolutionary movement of their respective countries. But this was a revolutionary May Day in the USA, where class-conscious workers of many nationalities stood with the working class. These revisionists must be overthrown. Their oppression will see to it that they all be freed at once.

Letters About May Day

The following message to the Houston May Day Committee 1980 was received from a revolutionary Brazilian worker, who first heard about May Day 1980 when he bought the April 18th edition of the Revolutionary Worker on the streets of Houston.

Brazil is now under a military dictatorship supported by American imperialism. Most of the authentic workers leaders have been killed, put in jail or exiled in the last 10 years. An incredible machine of death, torture, and repression was created with the support of the U.S.—GUA. The exploitation of the workers, the destruction of our natural resources, the expropriation of the peasant lands by the American imperialist companies, can only occur because the working class and their leaders are brutally repressed.

Millions of Brazilians suffer and die of malnutrition, infectious diseases, occupational diseases, etc., but all these diseases have a common agent—a brutal economic system of exploitation.

The recent strike of 250,000 metal workers in Sao Paulo is only one example of the bravery of these workers fighting the bourgeoisie, even under such hard dictatorship. Helicopters with machine-guns didn't scare these workers. The assassination of the workers' leader—Salvotra Diaz—last November brought thousands of workers to protest in the streets of Sao Paolo against such brutal repression.

Today, the Brazilian working class is united in the workers' day—May 1st. Today is not a day to be commemorated. It is a day to fight, until the end of all exploitation of one nation by another nation.
Internationalism—Wall to Wall

San Francisco's Mayor, Diane Feinstein, along with the rich and chic art patrons can usually be found at the openings of cultural events, even not the art, but gossiping about who and who’s with whom. But they were no-shows at the opening of the Poster Brigade's May Day Mail-In Art Show at the Intersection Gallery.

This gaggle of bourgeois geese, with the Arts Commission fronting for them, had already tried unsuccessfully to sabotage the show by demanding the downing of the billboard advertising it (see RW April 25th). But the billboard still stands and thousands see it daily. In fact the Mayor's gang were not only no-shows, but they were certainly unwelcome in this event, because the May Day Mail-In Art Show went right in the face of the ruling class and their culture and shattered the rule that an art gallery is a place for expensive, esoteric, insidious and decadent pictures and people.

From all four walls a wide range of works rips through it's hypocritical brushstrokes and fights to reach freedom. What an inspiring and liberating place for class-conscious workers and all revolutionary and progressive-minded people to go to. Your sights are immediately lifted far beyond the boundaries of this country as posters from Stockholm, Sweden, with the date "1 May" emblazoned in black across a black background, call people to the May Day demonstrations. Another one from Paris calls people into the streets for International Workers Day. From West Germany there is a series of political postcards. Woodcuts from Japan depicting workers' struggles after World War 2 and one that hails the last May Day before the war in 1932, as workers carrying red flags march with Japanese troops. And from Brazil, to beat the government censors, an artist depicts himself surrounded by phone noise and friends killed by the dictatorship and on his outstretched tongue is a symbol of justice. From Ireland, photographs showing the struggle against British occupation in the north, while right next to them are powerful pictures from England close-ups of street battles of the Brigade against the racist National Front. From punkrockers in Ireland, a postcard says "Rock Against Beatrix," preparing for the coronation demonstrations. Posters from Australia demand liberation for East Timor and advertise for International Women's Day. Italy, Portugal, Canada, Chile and more.

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Top: Painting submitted by Iranian student.

More May Day Reports

May 1st Erupts Across the Country

In the last issue of the RW, we reported on May Day demonstrations in key cities around the country. The following are reports from other areas where May Day demonstrations took place.

Atlanta

At the crack of dawn a local DJ held "reports on revolutionary traffic problems" on this May Day. Throughout the day TV and radio programming was interrupted with updates on May Day activities. Never before was so much attention devoted to a demonstration. Government buildings were locked, with extra guards posted.

State employees, workers in a department store, and those at a chemical plant received company memos informing that anyone absent May 1 would be fired. At the assembly point for the march, 125 riot control police, scores of motorcycle and mounted police, FBI and GBI (Georgia Bureau of Investigation)—"Red Squad" agents and a SWAT team waited. They were joined by a rag-tag collection of creeps, clutching their red, white and blue dishrags, sporting "Send Commies to Iran!" T-shirts. The lines were clearly and sharply drawn. In small groups the slaves broke free from plants, schools and housing projects—some just stayed home, others arrived at the park. Red flags began to be unfurled, meeting the prearranged demonstration in the middle of the street. The police used this as an excuse to ring the demonstrators, and that point numbering about 50, and refused to let anyone else join them.

Outside police lines, debate raged between reactionaries and those who had come to May Day. "Isn't this the dividing line?" one man asked police, referring to their ring. "Yeah," they replied. "Well, I'll stand here because I'm neutral," he said. Another stepped forward to proclaim, "Then I'll stand inside the ring, 'cause that's my side." "I'm not a socialist, I'm not a communist," one man said, "but this government's gotta be overthrown, it's the worst one that's ever existed in the world." Some press estimated that the crowd had swelled to 2,500. The march departed, ringed by police acts. On the side marched about 100 people who had come to support the May Day march, but who were prevented by police from actually joining the march. Among those who broke through was a white carpenter who said, "I don't know that I'm for everything you're for, but I know I'm against what you're against," pointing at the cops and reactionaries. One white woman, recently laid off from a factory job, drove 20 miles from her home in a small town to join the march after reading about it in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. "I'm here because I missed the '60's," exclaimed a high school student. At the march's triumphant conclusion, demonstrators boarded a flat-bed truck, red flags streaming. People filled the sidewalks cheered and raised their fists. One black man broke into a run and leaped before the truck, grabbing the largest flag, "Let me hold that flag, that's my flag!" he said. A city worker for 15 years, he had met the May Day Brigade in jail. "I marched in Alabama the civil rights movement—RW," I've been waiting for this.

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Red Flag Flies in Face of Troops—Latin America

In Latin America, where in the last decade the U.S. has imposed one military dictatorship after another to maintain the miserable conditions which made this class possible, in the midst of the general anarchy of capitalism, there were a number of very important May Day demonstrations which took place under conditions of strict illegality and fierce repression. They indicate that the revolutionary movement is leading to the overthrow of the hated Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua last year are spreading to other Latin American countries.

In Brazil, run by an open military dictatorship which for years now has bragged about wiping out all resistance, 150,000 striking auto workers celebrated May Day by marching to the stadium to surrender a sports stadium and take it over. The workers have been waging the illegal strike since the beginning of January. As dealers, Volkswagen—companies whose names give an idea of who Brazil is run for. Although the demands are for no more than a 10% wage increase, the strike has been marked by a spirit of defiance against the military regime in years, and for that reason has won widespread support throughout Brazil, including massive, prominent forces within the Catholic church and the bourgeois opposition. On May 1, strikers in Sao Bernardo, a suburb of the industrial city of Sao Paulo—which produces the working-class capital of Brazil since the strike began—held a rally in a church where they decided to march on the city stadium, which had been occupied for weeks by thousands of militarized police with armed cars, mounted patrols, and helicopters. As the marchers neared their goal, the police, who had prohibited all marches and meetings, found themselves faced with the choice of either opening fire on several thousand determined workers while the whole country watched, or retreating. For the time being they withdrew their forces from the area.

In San Salvador, capital city of El Salvador, about 5000 people succeeded in holding an impressive May Day march despite the threat that the Army would prevent it. The demonstrations, “throwing weapons in gym and shopping bags” according to some reports, marched three abreast for 20 blocks and then held a rally in the central market, chanting “Death to the Junta” and “Down with U.S. Imperialism!” and other revolutionary slogans.

In the city of Santa Ana, about 50 miles to the west, fighting between government forces and revolutionaries broke out all night before May Day, leading to the deaths of a number of policemen and national guardsmen. In Guatemala, which the U.S. companies, whose guns keep banana-picking cheap, have the nerve to call “a banana republic,” two men planted a revolutionary flag on the U.S. embassy wall by machine-gun fire. Nevertheless, the main streets of the capital were filled with May Day marchers, many of whom wore scarves to hide their faces and blankets painted with slogans.

In Uruguay, under military rule since a CIA coup in 1973, May Day marchers also carried a banner on all offices, bus lines, and stores, warning a workers’ protest, massive numbers of soldiers surrounded an auto assembly plant in the center of Montevideo and forced the workers wavering outside with tears to enter the plant at bayonet point. One worker was shot down in cold blood.

In addition, news from Chile (see last week’s RW), the number of arrests there in connection with May Day has risen to well over 500, overwhelmingly coming before May Day itself. In the days following the street demonstrations and sabotage, Santiago May 1, several armed attacks have been carried out against military authorities, including the military intelligence barracks.

Erupts

Continued from page 3

A mural of Damian Garcia atop the Alba, emblazoned with red letters across the sky, “Vivas Damas, Viva la Banda Roja” marked the site where the May Day marchers and strikers met. Over 100 people gathered at the rally as a canopy of clouds filled the sky. “Fuck you, Iran” T-shirts, he finished with, “This is International Workers Day, this is just the beginning. The troops are being stopped by guys like you or anybody else.”

In Cincinnati, as the march of 80 approached an unoccupied office building, the cops franned that more would join in. They formed a solid wall between the march and the office, drawing their clubs to make their point clear. Some broke through. One unoccupied white truck driver jumped in, declaring, “I’m tired of being a closet case, because everything this revolution stands for, I’ve been thinking for years.” The effect was electrifying. More people started following the demonstration on the sidewalk. One last effort by organized reactionaries to stop May Day by taking over the town square where the march was to end failed also. “He came to the May Day demonstration right here at the square as voices rang out with the International’s anthem.”

It has been learned that at a Cincinnati hospital, there was a worker who sold his friend the Worker’s World newspaper to a group going to the march. But when May 1st came, he went to work instead. Eight other workers gave him hell all day long, they wanted a first-hand account of the march from him. They accused him of not being serious. So he ended up criticizing himself, and later called the Worker’s Center because he wanted help in starting an RW network.

Houston

For weeks the local ruling class was preparing to stop May Day. Next Tuesday, a new company, City Bus, began operation and the office was unable to threaten that Travis Moore, an ex-Brock Nordy 31, was running for the company. He stated that he wouldn’t be in today May Day. “Communist blood will flow tomorrow,” he said.

The City Bus officials denied the parade permit. Assorted reactionaries tried to stop the march before it left the Pennzoil Building. Slows in “Commie Suckers,” mostly young, opened fire, trying to go good marchers in a confrontation. The workers, clubbed back down May Day, and a former prisoner made up a chant on the spot: “Damas is here! Damas is here!”

Two days later, after May Day, a subway on KPCC radio said, “I saw a sight I thought I’d never seen before the streets of Houston. Fifty or sixty people, led by a red flag were marching down Main Street and everything, marching right down Main Street. It was an awesome sight.”

Along the May 1st march in Washington, D.C.
Pigs in L.A.

Conspiracy to Stop May Day Exposed

Los Angeles—With every passing day, the conspiracy against May Day in Southern California in particular becomes increasingly exposed. The latest revelation occurred on May 8th, full week after May Day when attorneys for the 28 people arrested during the cowardly and unsuccessful police attack on May 1st, announced that no charges had been filed against any of the defendants. The reason? The city attorney's office hasn't yet figured out what crimes—"crimes" that would theoretically justify the debauching, tear gas, and police charge that attempted to smash the demonstration and arrest all the participants. 16 of those arrested had been booked on charges of "failure to disperse," but even the police were forced to admit to the local media that they had no one to blame. In fact, one of those illegally grabbed on this non-existent crime had his arm broken in three places. (See the May 2nd...)

This latest disclosure came out in an L.A. Municipal Court hearing at what is supposed to have been the arrangement of at least one of those arrested. However, the judge, who turned into an opportunity for some newsmedia and the FBI to refuse to turn over their tapes, noted on May Day—all items which had been subpoenad by the defense. The FBI agents showed up to advise the media, one of whom wrote, "They have our tapes.

Despite the obvious fact that any of this material is damaging to the police is likely to be destroyed by these organizations, the judge ruled that since there aren't any charges filed on the "conspiracy to stop May Day," the legal advice is unnecessary to the information.

"Catch 23"—since there are no charges, you can't get the tapes, and if there are charges, there won't be any info.

In the months and weeks preceding May Day, there were many articles and editorials warning of the police attack on the May Day demonstrators. This was true of the Bay Area, where the Chronicle was one of the few newspapers to cover the demonstration. The Chronicle's coverage was truly vile and insidious. For example, prior to May Day one reporter spent a whole day with a squad of May Day Brigadiers in the Fruitvale area in Oakland during a period in which over 100 Revolutionary Workers were sold, confined and beaten and an older woman joined up to march with the Brigadiers. The article that was finally printed based on the day's activities was nothing but an attack. It called the RCP a bunch of violence prone "middle class radicals" and said that the Brigadiers would harass people with their newspapers and that the masses responded in "amusement." The outrageous slander continued.

On May 1st, one of the in-fight battles, the RCP and the United May Day Committee, appeared before a legal suit in Federal Court, as a beginning step in exposing the overall conspiracy to stop May Day. The lawsuit involved the LAPD and other government agencies. This suit will help turn up the heat on all the FBI cases. In the realization that even their lies are being trashed, some of the Chronicle's pages have slammed shut the realization that even their lies are being trashed, and that they were calling a lot of attention to May Day so they decided to bury it in silence.

Some people at the Chronicle had their eyes and ears opened a little wider as a result of the May 6th demonstration, as the editor's real past years. San Francisco pigs, did their thing. Three reporters by buying Revolutionary Workers, each saying that they knew the San Francisco Chronicle had it and it was right on to be up there. One asked how he could get a May Day poster. Outside the Chronicle building, crowds gathered and a number of Chronicle employees followed the arrested delegation right to the paddy wagon. The Chronicle's pages have slammed shut the realization that even their lies were calling a lot of attention to May Day so they decided to bury it in silence.

May 1's Press Coverage Scandalous

Delegation Slams S.F. Chronicle

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Sixty Revolutionary Workers were sold that afternoon.

To dozens of Chronicle employees up there in the editor's office, a profound self-exposure took place before their eyes. The charge of "free press" was shown to be just that—a charade. In case one or two of them doubted it, they could peruse the Chronicle's pages in the next day's issue for some "objective reporting" on news that happened right inside their offices. Would they find anything? Not a word. Before are two statements condemn-

The aims of the May Day celebration—one expressed by the international, "Arise, ye wretched..."
Erupts

Continued from page 1

Hawaii

"I was so proud of you! I was sup-posed to be there!" cried a woman who walked eight hours through the rain for the May Day parade. As 40,000 to 60,000 people marched through the streets, hundreds came out of houses to watch, hundreds more lined the sidewalks. For the first time, the news on May 1 couldn't focus on "Lei Day" in Honolulu, when several thousand sisters on May Day. Their fears were gone.

But unfortunately this day he couldn't do anything because he said, "I've been here in this country for only one year. I have a wife and a house."

"The bourgeoisie looks at proletarian revolution as a disease, they try to undermine the revolutionary spirit of May Day as a main line to the March 15. For this reason I actually should I add it was a real booster to the advanced."
Inter-nationalism
Continued from page 3

in this exhibit, inspiring a number of artists, both Iranian and non-Iranian alike. One postcard shows Black graphics car-
rying garbage in the American flag while bayonets lean Pleasure
Continued from page 5
might be attacked, arrested and deport-
ed because a lot of these workers are illegal immigrants.
But next year will be more mar-
ching on May Day. Many more will
recognize that if one worker is jailed or killed all that means is that ten
more will take his place without fear of repression. It is important for people to see that this is the way we have to
fight—without fear of repression. Repression will come whether we strug-
gle or not. We have no choice but to struggle without fear of repression and have foremost in our
mind the question of revolution. For every act of repression, 10, 20, 100s
Look at the example of Damian Garcia.
We have our work cut out for us because workers today have blinders on
their eyes, yet there are those who are tire
d of all this, who see no other way but through radical change to put forward the red flag and make a kind of system that is just and free of exploitation.
I want to make a call to all my Ecua
dorian brothers and sisters to form ranks, and to other Latin American workers, to exert our influence. We have
limitations because of our language but we can influence other workers who speak Spanish and call on them to join the revolutionary ranks and to do away with imperialism to work for a bright future.
The tasks ahead are very arduous,
but not impossible. We have to find the
ways, the formulas, the tactics and plans of how to unite and arm people with consciousness and draw them for
ward into action. We have to get this
across to other workers and transmit to
them the need to struggle, the need for revolution. We have to see that now that we’ve come to this point, especially
after May Day, the first May Day that
was celebrated in New York City and
across the country, that the situation has intensified. The ruling class will find new ways to keep people from see-
ing their chains from breaking them. We have to redouble and intensify our work and not bow down to adversity, which is to give up and give in to defeat.

The May Day marches that took place in the U.S. in 1980 were composed of hundreds (thousands throughout) but determined work-
ing class marches of all racial com-
positions who were calling for revolution. We shouted our slogans, made ourselves visible, despite numerous arrests (96
separate arrests for those who
built for May Day, despite the
murder of Damian Garcia, one of the members of the May Day
Brigade. The police, courts, and
business throughout this country knew that May Day would sharpen
the struggle between classes and that therefore made an obvious public attempt to stop these demonstrations, it is no accident that the police were in full force, hiding in garages all along the route. Intimidation did not work forever! Where there is crisis sharpened, the class con-
scious workers are right behind the police. Your paper would like to depict May Day as a poorly attended,
insignificant March. The fact is
that it was attended by hundreds more than you would have pre-
sented thousands in this country who cannot be bought off or threathened and who will fight for revolution.

To the editor,
Your article regarding May Day is an outrageous insult to all
workers in this country. You have
attempted to depict the May Day march as a small group of cud
protestors having some kind of gala event on a Sunday. You obviously did not want your read-
ers to know the real meaning
of these demonstrations throughout this country and throughout the world.

signed,
David Fisher, Winner, Poetry
Society of America
William Carlos Williams Award
October 1978

May 1st rally in New York City.

Nationalism
Continued from page 5

of the earth..." are ancient and
powerful, an epic call to rising, an
insignificant march. The tact is
conscious workers are ready to tight.

signed,
Oakland Feminist Women’s
Health Center,
May 6, 1980

of the need to struggle, the need for
see their chains from breaking them.
Continuing from page 5
across the country, that the situation
after May Day, the first May Day that
find new ways to keep people from see
Continuing from page 5
The contributions of poetry are very
powerful. An epic poem entitled, "To
Revolutionaries Who Think of Con-
making. When $5 an Hour is Enough"
calls out the system on all fronts. Of the
words: "To the world, To Bob
Aykavnig and the Mao Defendants, Damian
Garcia and May 1st, 1980. A number of
grade school kids have sent in draw-
ing about all these events—hudding young revolutionary artists.

One woman, who before May Day
had only painted floral scenes on silk, contributed a painting called "The Birth of Freedom." In it a woman is giving birth to a child facing two futures. "On the right is the horror of this system—The Pope, a General, A skeleton holding a bottle of baby
formula (like that being exported by U.S. corporations)—and on the left, a number of infants deaths). This side is all black and gray. The artist chose to
direct the emerging infant toward the bright future—depicted by flowers, sun, sunbeams, "Thanks Iran." And above it a
daub of grade school kids have sent in draw-
ings about all these events—hudding young revolutionary artists.

Another young artist, responsible for
a number of scoffing graphics compar-
ing the U.S. government to Hitler did
not put his stuff in the show until after
the opening. As he put it, "I’ve seldom
been together with other artists doing political work. I felt isolated. But this is really encouraging."
The opening itself drew between
2000 and 3000 people to the three
quarters that it lasted. The members of the Poster Brigade put a "conservative estimate of
1,000 people" that have seen the show so far—mostly people who are familiar
with the gallery or who attend poetry
readings or theatre performances there. This gallery staff people themselves have
reported many people coming to the show and discussing it around the streets.

It is a declaration of war and a decla-
ration of hope for a brighter future. To
paraphrase a line from a song by the
Chuck, "With the treads full of poets and
artists, the ragged army fixes bayonets to fight the other line."
Marcha del Primero de Mayo en Portland, Oregon

May 1st march in Portland, Oregon