



Que Ondeé Sola

May 1988, Volume 21, No. 11

The Month of May in History

The month of May is rich with historical dates. Karl Marx, whose scientific analysis of society changed the development of humanity, was born on May 5, 1818. The Cuban apostle, José Martí, was killed in an ambush by Spanish troops during the outbreak of the Cuban war of independence on May 19, 1898. Ironically enough, May 19, 1890 and May 19, 1925, mark the birthdays of Ho Chi Minh and El Hajj Malik Shabazz, better known as Malcolm X, respectively. To conclude our list of famous birthdays, Ruis Belvis, reknown Puerto Rican revolutionary, was born on May 17, 1825.

One of the most significant days which is recognized by liberation movements and socialist-bloc countries is May 1st—International Workers Day. On this day workers across the world commemorate the workers who were unjustly executed as a result of the Haymarket Riot. In the United States, May 1st is not recognized as a national holiday. Instead, the US has attempted to overshadow International Workers Day by inventing Labor Day, which is on September 5th.

May 5, 1988 marks the 121st anniversary of the Battle of Puebla where Napoleon III suffered defeat at the hands of the Mexican people. We must not forget

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Cinco de Mayo Remembered

CHAOS, ANARCHY, DISMEMBERMENT AND CIVIL WAR, 1821-1860

From the moment Spanish troops left in 1821, Mexico, with no democratic tradition whatsoever, with a political system based on Spanish rule by decree, was at the mercy of would-be dictators.

These people, particularly Iturbide and General Santa Anna, raised armies and caused Mexico to lurch from one war to another. To raise money for their wars, they mortgaged Mexico's future and allowed it to be raped by European financiers.

The United States, lusting for more territory as its Manifest Destiny, encouraged Texas to rebel in 1836 and declare its independence from Mexico. In 1846, President Polk secretly ordered American troops to invade Mexico. When it responded, the US declared war, which resulted in Mexico losing California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, almost half its territory.

After this disaster, Mexico, for the first time, elected a Liberal Government led by President Comonfort, Miguel Lerdo and Benito Juárez. When they promulgated the *Ley Lerdo*, which expropriated

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church property for sale to private individuals, the Church and its Reactionary supporters rebelled.

Benito Juárez legally assumed the Presidency in January, 1858, when President Comonfort resigned. The Juárez Presidency started with no funds in the Treasury, a total of 350 soldiers, and a well-armed Reactionary army chasing Juárez and his ministers into the Pacific Ocean at Acapulco.

Relocating to Vera Cruz, by way of Panama and New Orleans, Juárez began to rebuild his government.

With no money to arm and feed his army, in the Fall of 1860, the Juárez government liberated a silver convoy owned by British interests worth \$1,127,000. The Reactionaries, also strapped for funds, issued a \$15,000,000 worth of bonds to a Swiss bank for a loan of \$750,000, then robbed the British Legation of \$700,000, money owed British bondholders.

With this liberated money, Juárez was able to equip his army, defeat the Reactionaries and re-enter Mexico City. He later repaid the money.

Mexico, short of money, as always, suspended all foreign debt payments, as help was unavailable from a US in Civil War.

FOREIGN TROOPS LAND IN MEXICO, 1861-1862

In January, 1862, 2500 French and 750 British troops landed in and occupied Vera Cruz, joining 6000 Spanish troops who landed the month before, to collect debts owed their nations.

These foreigners were joined by 2000 Mexican reactionaries whose leaders were secretly dealing with Napoleon III to bring a European prince to Mexico to displace Juárez' legal government. The British and Spanish were quite civil, while the French demanded full payment on the \$15,000,000 bonds.

The bonds were subterfuge, as Napoleon III had written his French Commander stating three reasons why French troops were in Mexico: to stop the spreading influence of the US; to provide new sources of raw materials for France; and, to provide a market for French goods, in a word, Colonialism.

Shortly thereafter, the British and Spanish negotiated an accommodation and pulled out, leaving the French. On April 16, 1862, the French proclaimed themselves "Liberals and pacifiers" and stated their flag had come to Mexico to stay. With the first

fighting, Juárez issued a proclamation which ended with, "we must now prove to France and to the entire world that we are worthy to be free..."

THE BATTLE OF PUEBLA, THE 5TH OF MAY, 1862

The road to Mexico City from their encampment at Orizaba took the French to the city of Puebla, east of Mexico City, where the Mexican army gathered under the brilliant 32-year old General Ignacio Zaragoza. 4,850 Mexican soldiers prepared to fight off 6,000 professional French soldiers and 2,000 Mexican reactionaries.

To the Mexican's surprise, and to the everlasting shame of the French Army, the French commander divided his forces at dawn, the 5th of May, and sent one group to attack two Mexican manned forts north-east of Puebla and one to attack troops commanded by Porfirio Díaz, miles away.

Zaragoza reinforced his troops at the forts and moved men on both sides of the only avenue of attack. When the French attacked, they pounded the Mexican forts with superior fire power, but were repulsed three times by heroic Mexican soldiers. The Mexicans' superior deployment set up a withering crossfire, which resulted in almost a 1,000 French killed and wounded.

The other French forces attacked Díaz' troops who responded with such ferocity, the French quickly withdrew. Díaz, ordered by Zaragoza to break off, disobeyed and pursued the French until nightfall. Díaz took no prisoners. Mexican casualties: 250. The French retreated to the coast and sent for help.

THE BATTLE'S AFTERMATH

Eventually, of course, the French sent 30,000 more troops to Mexico and did march into Mexico City, a year later, after besieging Puebla for two months and starving the Mexicans out.

This year delay is the crux of why Cinco de Mayo is so important. Had the French won on Cinco de Mayo, they would have consolidated their power sooner and fulfilled Napoleon III's ambition to place a puppet monarch on a phony Mexican throne.

Moreover, he would have been in a position to recognize the Confederacy with which he was in sympathy and to provide it with munitions and sup-

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Towards a Decolonization Model for Education

Workshops by

Henry Giroux

A leading exponent of "resistance theory" and advocate for radical education...

Peter McLaren

Well known for his critical accounts of urban schooling and his involvement in the struggle for educational reform...

Saturday, May 14th

noon—4:30 pm

The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center
(Meeting Rooms 1-2)
Randolph and Michigan

Workshops on...

The Empowerment of Teachers and Students
and
The "National Literacy Curriculum"

Reception and Forum...

**Toward the Possibility of a
Radical Theory of Education in the US:
A Decolonization Model for Education**

**Pedro Albizu Campos
Puerto Rican High School
1671 N. Claremont**

6:00—9:00pm

Admission is free. The workshops are sponsored in part, by the "Society in Focus" series of the Chicago Public Library. For additional information about the workshops at the Cultural Center call David Williams at 269-2830. For information about the evening reception and forum, call Marvin García at 342-8022.

Cinco de Mayo...

plies through Mexico, outflanking the Union Navy.

We can agree that the months between May 5th, 1862 and June 10th, 1863, were vital to the eventual defeat of the Confederacy by the Union. Had the Confederates been able to rely on supplies and arms shipped by Great Britain and France through a Royal Mexico, could Lincoln have beaten them?

As French troops approached Mexico City, Juárez packed his government and left for the North, carrying his capitol with him for four years, eventually locating in El Paso Del Norte, on the Texan border.

Maximilian, an unemployed Hapsburg prince, was brought in by Napoleon III to rule Mexico as his surrogate. A Mexican army was recruited to signify legitimacy of the newly crowned Emperor Maximilian, and troops were brought in from Austria and Belgium to assist French troops. The Confederacy recognized Maximilian.

With Juárez only in control of a small area around what is now Ciudad Juárez, he sent his family to New York. Speculation was rampant he was preparing to cross into Texas. As usual, however, his opponents underrated the tiny Zapotec Indian. He held on.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Almost from the start of the French Invasion, some Americans joined the Army of Juárez. However, with the Union and the Confederacy battling across the Virginia countryside, few Americans paid attention to Mexico. Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward let the French know they were unwelcome, but with an eye towards possible European recognition of the Confederacy, an arms embargo was imposed on both sides of the Mexican conflict.

Nevertheless, millions of dollars worth of arms were purchased in the United States by agents of Juárez' government.

A trickle of Americans grew as the fighting wound down in the US, and turned into a torrent when Juárez issued a decree on August 11, 1864, offering foreign volunteers regular Mexican army pay; land worth a \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000, up to a 1084 acres, depending on rank; and no need to become a Mexican citizen.

Thousands of Americans eventually found their way to Mexico. Whether they went for land, or to fight for the Monroe Doctrine, or for freedom, it didn't matter, they fought. American involvement accelerated with the surrender of Robert E. Lee in

April, 1865. Lincoln's assassination caused great sorrow in Mexico, but, President Andrew Johnson following Lincoln's lead, sent General William Sheridan and an army to the Texas border.

Mexican guerrilla's openly operated out of Texas, crossing the Rio Grande, harassing French and reactionary troops and dashing back under the watchful eyes of American soldiers. Sheridan "condemned" rifles, artillery and military supplies, had them left in wagons along the Rio Grande and made sure Juárez' men knew where they were. Within days, these were used against the French.

Some Confederates, refusing to give up, headed for Mexico to join Maximilian and the French. Americans fought in all major engagements, on both sides, most, however, for Juárez.

One group, the American Legion of Honor, fought with great distinction for Juárez and was present at the final victory in Queretero, where Maximilian, abandoned by the French, was captured and executed.

On July 8, 1867, Juárez led his troops, including the Americans, into Mexico City. The war was over.

CINCO DE MAYO: WHAT IT MEANS

Militarily, the Battle of Puebla was nothing more than a delay for the French, as they reinforced their expeditionary force and defeated the Mexican Army a year later in the same city.

The year delay, however, effectively doomed the French invasion. As the Mexicans continued to fight, French colonial desire dimmed.

The resolve of Juárez and all loyal Mexicans, moreover, was bolstered by victory at Puebla. Citizen soldiers could defeat what was arguably the finest professional army on earth.

More importantly, it demonstrated to the world that Mexicans could and would unite to protect themselves from foreign intrusion, from imposed monarchy. Freedom, cannot be taken away, by anyone, anytime. *Taken from Wicker Park/West Town Extra, Vol. 306*

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José Martí
Died: May 19, 1895



Malcolm X
Born: May 19, 1925

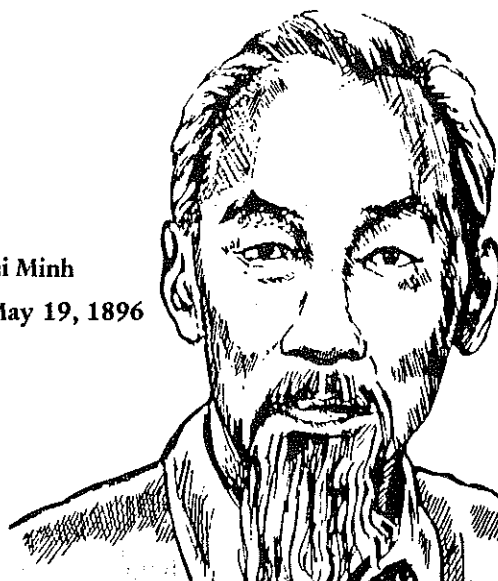
the May 4, 1972 murder of four Kent State students and the May 14, 1970 murders of two Black students at Jackson State.

In Puerto Rico there are also many commemorative days in May. Among them is the first unsuccessful military invasion of the island. On May 12, 1898, the US military, led by General Miles, a notorious butcher of Native Americans were defeated by the Puerto Rican revolutionary guerrilla movement. Fifty-six years later, on May 26, eleven Puerto Rican Nationalists leaders in Chicago, New York, and Puerto Rico were arrested in connection with the March 1, 1954 attack on Congress by Lolita Lebron, Andres Figueroa Cordero, Rafael Cancel Miranda and Irvin Flores.

The Puerto Rican independence movement developed and on May 21, 1979, Guillermo Morales, a Puerto Rican clandestine freedom fighter escaped from the Bellevue Prison Ward in New York. Two days before this glorious escape, twenty one people were arrested in Vieques protesting the Navy's military exercises on the island.

There are other important days in May that have great significance to freedom loving people around the world. For example, May 18th is celebrated by the Namibian people as Namibian Heroes Day, International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian Struggle against Zionist fascism is commemorated on May 15th, condemning the 1948 declaration of the illegal state of Israel.

May is full of many examples of bravery and courage. These dates would be insignificant if we did not learn from them in order to change the world into a better place.



Ho Chi Minh
Born: May 19, 1896

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WHAT HAPPENED MAY 1, 1886?

CONTINUED FROM THE APRIL ISSUE OF QUE ONDEE SOLA

Go, walk to the homes of the poor and you will see them heaped up in the smallest possible space, breathing an infernal atmosphere of sickness and death. Do you believe that these people have a real consciousness of what they are doing? In no way. It is the product of certain conditions, of a definite situation to which they were born, which forces them to be what they are. I could demonstrate this with a thousand examples.

"The social question is as much European as it is American. In the great industrial centers of the US, the worker is dragged into a miserable life, the poor woman prostitutes herself to live, the children perish prematurely, destroyed by the painful labors they have to take up, and a great many of our people are also impoverished daily. What is the difference from country to country?"

"You have brought the reporters of the bourgeois press here to test my revolutionary language. I have demonstrated to you that our adversaries have attended or can attend all our meetings to prove the falsehood of socialism. We have invited reporters to our meetings and representatives of industry and business; all have always responded with silence. In summary I tell you a "reporter" is a man who is not independent, who is not free, who works by the instigation of another, who can accuse us of a crime or proclaim us the most virtuous of men. Moreover, all the meetings called by the 'American Group' were controversial. A citizen of Washington who came here to combat us in 1880 has written us repeatedly offering to declare that our meetings never had the objective of exciting the people to destruction, as you have said, but rather the simple discussion of economic questions. Twenty more witnesses were willing to confirm the same thing."

Fielden's discourse was interrupted by an adjournment, and he resumed at 2:00 in the afternoon, dwelling on his perceptions of the laws and scrupulously analyzing the events of McCormick; for example, the revolutionary propaganda through the years and all their ideas in connection with the propaganda of the socialists. He concluded with an eloquent finale whose major paragraphs were the following:

"If you want to take my life for invoking the principles of socialism, since I honestly believe I have invoked them in favor of humanity, I will give it to you happily. I believe that the price is insignificant next to the grand results of our sacrifice.

"I love my fellow workers as I do myself, and I hate tyranny, evil and injustice. The 19th Century is committing the crime of hanging its best friends. The hour of

repentance will not tarry. Today the sun shines for humanity, but since it cannot illuminate happier days for us, I consider myself happy to die, above all if my death can move only one minute sooner the fortunate arrival of the day when, on the top of the ruins of corruption there will be raised the splendid morning of an emancipated world, free of all ills, of all the monstrous anachronisms of our times and of our decrepit institutions."

LOUIS LINGG

Born in Mannheim, Germany, September 9, 1864. His father worked as a lumberjack and his mother as a laundress. Lingg received his education in the Mannheim public schools. Lumber, the first shelter of his life, began to obscure his horizons, exercising a decisive influence which he relates as follows:

"My first youth was happy until an unfortunate accident befell my father. It produced such a change in our situation that many times necessity and hunger were visitors in our family. Only my mother's supreme efforts kept those visits from being daily.

"One day my father tried to replace a heavy beam of evergreen oak which had slipped from the bank onto the frozen surface of the river. The ice cap broke and my father disappeared into the frozen water, from which he was rescued with great difficulty.

"The accident destroyed his health and decreased his capacity to work. Seeing this, his noble patron reduced his salary, even though my father had legally worked for him for 12 years. Ultimately he fired him, saying business was declining.

"When I was 13 I received my first impression of the existing social institutions; that is to say, the exploitation of man by man, observing what happened in my own family.

"It did not escape me that my father's old boss, the wood merchant, was becoming richer all the time, despite the spendthrift life he and his family lived. While on the other hand my father, who had contributed to creating the wealth the bourgeois family enjoyed by sacrificing his health, was thrown away like a used-up tool.

"All of this injected in my soul the seed of bitterness and hatred for the existing society, and this sentiment became more intense upon entrance into the industrial arena."

Lingg learned his trade of carpentry and, after the traditional (for Germany) 3 years of apprenticeship, travelled through the south of Germany and then Switzerland,

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working wherever the occasion presented itself. It was not long before he learned about the doctrines of socialism, which he accepted with enthusiasm.

In 1885 he came to America. He did not want to submit to German military service, and for this reason he was no longer safe in Switzerland.

He arrived in Chicago and obtained work in carpentry, quickly becoming a member of the society, in which he distinguished himself through his organizing attitude. He could say with noble pride that the society to which he belonged came through the movement for an 8-hour day in May of 1886 with no loss of forces.

**THE WRETCHES HAVE NO RIGHT
TO CALL US COWARDS—Louis Lingg**

“You have conceded me, after condemning me to death, the liberty to make a last statement. I accept your concession, but only to point out the injustices, slanders and attacks of which I have been a victim.

“You accuse me of murder, but what proof do you have?

“First you brought Seliger here to testify against me. He says he helped me fabricate bombs. I have shown that I bought the bombs I had at 58 Clybourne Ave. What you have not proven, even with the testimony you bought from this notorious man, is that those bombs had any connection with the ones in Haymarket.

“You brought here some chemical specialists and they have had to declare that among bombs there is as much essential difference as an inch length in their diameters. This is the type of proof you brought against me.

“No, it is not for a crime that you have condemned us to death; it is for what has been said here in many different ways, it is for our principles that we are condemned.

“You accuse me of scorning law and order. What do law and order mean? Its representatives are the police, and there are many thieves among them. Captain Schnack was seated here. He has confessed that my hat and my books had disappeared from his office, stolen by the police. Here are the defenders of our property rights!

“While I frankly declare that I am a believer in struggling by force to conquer a better life for my comrades and myself, while I affirm that in the face of the brutal violence of the police it is necessary to employ brute force; you are trying to hang seven men by appealing to falsehood and prejudice, buying witnesses and, in the end, fabricating a trial which is an iniquity from beginning to end.

Grinell had the audacity here, where I cannot defend myself, to wickedly call me a coward. You wretch! A man who has allied himself with a vile, salaried scoundrel to send me to the noose. This wretch who is trying to

assassinate seven men through the falsehoods of other wretches like himself, is who is calling me a coward!

“Permit me to assure you that I die happy because I am sure that the hundreds of workers I have talked to will remember my words, and when we have been hanged, they will make the bomb explode. In this hope I say to you: I have contempt for you, I have contempt for your order, your laws, your force, your authority. Hang me!”

ALBERT R. PARSONS

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, 1836. His parents died when he was very young. His brother, W.R. Parsons, was a general in the Confederate Army. He moved to Texas, taking his brother Albert with him.

He received his education there in the Waco schools. He later learned his trade as printer in the newspaper *Galveston News*, and when the War broke out he fled from his brother's house and entered an artillery corps in the Confederate Army. A short time later he served under his brother's orders, receiving outstanding distinction for his heroic valor.

After the war he was editor of the newspaper *The Spectator* in Waco. To his brother's great disgust he became a Republican and an important politician in the party, to the extent of twice occupying positions in the Federal Government in Austin. He was secretary of the Texas State Senate.

In this period he married a mulatta and in 1872, because of this marriage, his brother scorned him and forced him to leave Texas.

Having come to Chicago, he worked there for some time in various print shops, becoming an agitator for the working class.

For his merits he was named Master Worker of the Knights of Labor of the 24th District and President of the Assembly of Trades, which he held for 3 years.

In 1879, he was nominated for the Presidency of the US by the Socialist Labor Party; but he refused, although he had the age required by the Constitution.

In 1883, he was one of the founders of the Program of the International Workingmen's Association in their Pittsburgh Conference. He was later nominated to fill the post of Councillor and finally, in 1884, he founded the newspaper *The Alarm*, organ of the “American Group.”

From that time his continuous services to the organization, his tireless activity, as well as his fluid and convincing words, made Albert R. Parsons one of the most important figures who excelled in the working masses, director of the revolutionary Workers' Movement.

**THE TRUTH IS GREAT AND THE
TRUTH WILL PREVAIL—Albert R. Parsons**
Parsons' discourse was extremely long. Here are

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WHAT HAPPENED MAY 1st?...

various ideas touched on by this profound American thinker:

"History records many arbitrary acts carried out by the rulers of the people.

"I am a prisoner and I find myself at the mercy of the authorities, shut up in prison like a criminal.

"I am innocent and I declare that I will by no means accept the commutation of the penalty imposed on me.

"If I demand my immediate freedom I do so based on my legal, Constitutional and inalienable right.

"The bourgeois press, this poisonous institution of the ruling class, is thirsting for the workers' blood.

"As your representative has already said—and I repeat—you should hang me; of course you can do it; today you have that power. But even if you carry out this crime, you haven't the power to drown the social question.

"If I am not able to sign all the articles for *The Alarm*, which they impute to me as a crime, I declare myself absolutely responsible for all of them, and very particularly for those I wrote about dynamite and armaments.

"Who was the first to bring about the carnage?"

"Wasn't it Tom Scott, who wrote about the workers: 'Give them the logic of the guns.'"

"Wasn't it the *Tribune*, which advised giving bread filled with strychnine to workers dying of hunger?"

"Why does it seem strange to you then, that for our legitimate defense we have recourse to dynamite, which we prefer only for the ease with which we can acquire it?"

OSCAR W. NEEBE

He was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the Haymarket bomb.

He was born in Philadelphia of German parents. From his first years he felt his heart beat in favor of the disinherited, and he was always an excellent organizer of the trade sections, being a fervent propagandist of socialist ideas. He was 39, with a congenial nature. He was married, with two children. His unfortunate wife, who adored him, died of sorrow, knowing they had put her husband in jail in Chicago. His only crime consisted of his love for the revolutionary movement and of having concurred in their hatred for the bourgeoisie.

He had nothing to do with the events in Haymarket or with the explosion of the bomb. Neebe accepted his fate like a truly brave man.

The preceding facts prove that those who were sentenced in Chicago were activists, workers with generous feelings.

THE BOURGEOISIE HAVE NO HUMAN FEELINGS

—Oscar W. Neebe

"During the last few days I have been able to learn what law is, since I did not know before. I didn't know I could be convicted of a crime for knowing Spies, Fielden

and Parsons. I have presided over a meeting in Turner Hall, to which you were invited to discuss socialism.

"I was in that meeting, at which the representatives of the present capitalist system did not appear in order to discuss their aspirations with the workers. I don't deny it. I also on a certain occasion had the honor to lead a popular demonstration, and I have never seen such a large number of people in correct formation and the most absolute order. That imposing demonstration passed through the city streets sounding a protest against social injustices. If this is a crime, then I recognize that I am a criminal. I have always supposed I had a right to express my ideas as president of a peaceful meeting and as director of a demonstration. However, I have been convicted of this crime, of this so-called crime.

"On the morning of May 5, I learned that Spies and Schwab had been arrested, and then I also received the first news of the Haymarket meeting on the previous afternoon. After I finished my work I went to the offices of *Arbeiter Zeitung*, where I met Parson's wife and Miss Holmes. As I was going to speak to the first of those ladies, a herd of bandits—called policemen—burst in, their faces a portrait of ignorance and intoxication, people of worse character than the worst ruffians on the streets of Chicago. Major Harrison came in with those pirates and said: 'Who is the director of this paper?'

"The boys at the press did not know how to speak English and, since I knew Harrison I turned to him and said 'What is happening, Mr. Harrison?'

"He answered, 'I need to look through the paper to see if it contains any violent articles.'

"I promised him that I would review it and I did so in the company of Mr. Hand, who Harrison went to look for. Harrison returned in a few minutes and I saw all the typographers go down the stairs. Another gang of police entered at the same time as Parson's wife and Miss Holmes were found writing. One, whom I took for a gentlemanly official, asked, 'What are you doing here?' Miss Holmes responded, 'I am writing to my brother, who is editor of a workers' newspaper.'

"Upon hearing that, the official roughly grabbed her arm and, despite her protests, yelled, 'Shut up, bitch or I'll throw you on the floor.' I repeat these words today so that you will know the language of a noble Chicago police officer. He is one of yours. You insult women, because you lack the courage to insult men! Lucy Parsons received the same treatment—as they assured her the newspaper would no longer be published and they threw her printing material out the window. When I heard this, when I saw they meant to destroy property belonging to the workers of Chicago, I exclaimed, 'As long as I can, I will do all I can to assure the publication of this newspaper.' I published the newspaper again. When the police came down

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upon us, and all the presses refused to print it, we collected money and bought our own press, really two presses. Subscribers multiplied and finally, workers in Chicago today have what they need for propaganda.

"That is my crime!

"My other crime is to have contributed to the organization of associations of officials, to have put forth all my efforts toward the successive reduction of the work day, and to have propagated socialist ideas. Since 1865, I have always worked toward this goal.

"You found a revolver and a proletarian banner in my house. You have proved that I organized workers' associations, that I have struggled for a reduction in the work day, that I have done all I could to republish *Arbeiter Zeitung*; these are my crimes. Well then, I will be very sad if you don't hang me, honorable judges. Because a rapid death is preferable to the slow death we live. I have a family, I have children; and if they know their father has died, they will cry and will gather up his body and bury it. They can visit his grave; but, on the contrary, they will not be able to enter the prison to kiss a man condemned for a crime he did not commit. This is all I have to say. I beg you. Give me the same fate as my comrades! Hang me with them!"

MICHAEL SCHWAB

He was born in Mannheim, Germany in 1838 and was educated in a convent. He worked for several years as a bookbinder in several German cities and belonged to the Socialist Party. He came to the US in 1878, and shortly thereafter became editor, along with Spies, of *Arbeiter Zeitung*

**WORKERS MUST FEED OUR SPIRIT
JUST AS WE FEED OUR BODIES**

—Michael Schwab

"I will only speak a little, and surely I would not open my lips if my silence would not be interpreted as cowardly agreement with the comedy that is developing.

"To label the procedure followed in my trial 'injustice' would be a joke. There has been no justice, nor can there be, because when one class conforms another, it is hypocritical and evil to suppose it can exist.

"You are going to sentence me to death for writing in the newspaper and giving speeches. The judge knows as well as I that my supposed conversation with Spies never took place. He knows something more than that: he knows all the beauty of the work that went into the preparation of that conversation. When they appeared before the judge at the beginning of the trial, two or three policemen stated that they were sure they had seen me at Haymarket when Parsons finished his speech. Then they tried to attribute the planting of the bomb to me. At least in the first

telegrams that were sent to Europe, they said that I had thrown several bombs at the police. Later they realized the futility of that accusation and then Shnaubelt became the accused.

"You talk about the huge conspiracy that we all had developed in broad daylight. There is no secret in our propaganda. We announce, by written and spoken word, a revolution soon to come, a change in the mode of production, of all the industrial countries in the world, and this change will come, this change is sure to come.

"Every day murders are committed, children are inhumanly sacrificed, women die from overwork and men are slowly dying, consumed by their work; and there have never been laws which punish these crimes...

"As the worker that I am, I have lived with my people, I have slept in garrets, in their dungeons, I have seen virtue prostituted due to extreme misery and healthy men die of hunger due to lack of work. But I have been familiar with this in Europe, and I sheltered the illusion that in the so-called land of liberty these things would not exist. Nevertheless, reality has shown me the contrary. In the huge industrial centers of the US, there is more misery than in the countries of the Old World. Thousands of workers live in Chicago in filthy dwellings, without ventilation or sufficient space, two and three families piled in together in a single room, eating scraps of meat and a few vegetables. Disease thrives on men, women and children, especially on the unhappy and innocent children. Isn't this horrible in a city which calls itself civilized?

"That is why there are more native than foreign socialists here, although the capitalist press states the opposite in an attempt to accuse the latter of being responsible for the disturbances and disorder.

"Socialism, as we understand it, means that the land and the machines should be the property of the people. Production must be regulated and organized by productive associations that supply the consumers' demands. Under such a system, all human beings will have sufficient means available to be usefully employed, and undoubtedly, no one will lack work. Four hours of work a day will be enough to produce all that is necessary for a comfortable life, based on the statistics. Then there would be time to learn about science and the arts.

"This is the type of socialism we are talking about. There are those who say this is not American. Does that mean it is American to keep people in ignorance; is it American to encourage misery and crime? What have they done—the great political parties—for the people? Promise a lot and not do anything. Except corrupt them, buying votes on Election Day. It is normal, after all, that in a country where women have to sell their honor to live, the men sell their vote."

(cont. on pg. 10)

WHAT HAPPENED MAY 1st?...

GEORGE ENGEL

Born in Cassel, Germany, in 1836. Received a normal education in public schools and learned the trade of printing. In 1873, he came to the US and one year later arrived in Chicago, where he affiliated himself with revolutionary socialism.

He was a founder of the famous socialist group, Northwest, in 1883. His public activity and unceasing energy greatly helped the organization. Engel was an incisive speaker, and his speeches, correct and easy were heard with pleasure even by his adversaries.

**THE ONLY CRIME OF THE WORKING CLASS
IS ITS MISERY—George Engel**

"This is the first time I have appeared before an American court," said Engel. "And in it I am accused of murder. And why am I here? Why am I accused of murder? For the same reason that I had to leave Germany, the poverty and suffering of the working class.

"Here too, in this free republic, in the richest country in the world, there are many workers who do not have a place at the banquet of life and who, like social parias, eke out a miserable life. Here I have seen human beings looking for something to feed themselves in the heaps of garbage in the streets.

"When I came to this city from Philadelphia in 1873, I thought I would find an easier way of life, for a longer period of time. But I was completely disillusioned. I began to understand that for the worker, there is no difference between New York, Philadelphia and Chicago—just as there is no difference between Germany and this powerful country.

"A comrade from the factory made me scientifically understand the reason why the proletariat can not live decently in this country. I bought books to further educate myself and I, who had been a politician of good faith, began to detest politics and elections and began to understand that all the parties were degraded and that the very Social Democrats were the most completely corrupt. Then I joined the International Workingmen's Association. Members of the Association are convinced that only by force can we liberate the workers, based on what history teaches us. From history we can learn that force liberated the first colonizers of this country, that slavery was abolished only through force; and, just as the first to agitate against slavery in this country was hung, we too will be hung.

"And what constitutes my crime?

"It is that I have worked for the establishment of a social system in which it becomes impossible for some to obtain huge fortunes from production, while others suffer poverty and misery. Just as water and air are free for all, so must the land and inventions made by scientists be used



to benefit all. Your laws are contrary to the laws of nature and through them you are stealing from the masses their right to life, liberty and well-being...

"The night when the first bomb was thrown, I was in my house. I did not know anything about the conspiracy the government is claiming to have discovered.

"It is true that I work with my comrades on trial, but some of them I know only by sight from the workers' meetings. I do not deny that I have spoken in different meetings—stating that if each worker struggles closely united with each other, the ruling capitalist system will soon be overthrown.

"I am not fighting the capitalist, I am fighting the system which gives privileges. My strongest desire is that the workers should know who are their enemies and who are their friends.

"Everything else is contemptible; I despise the power of a single government, the police and their spies."

ADOLF FISCHER

He was born in Germany and was 30 years old. At age 10 he emigrated with his family to the US and learned the printing trade in Nashville, Tennessee.

Progressing in his sociological education, shortly thereafter he was editor and owner of the newspaper *Staats Zeitungh*, which was published in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1881 he sold the newspaper and moved to Chicago, where he worked as a printer and founded a newspaper that defended the most advanced socialist ideas. From then on, his recognized learning and his hard work led him to carry out difficult work in the heart of the workers' organization.

**THE TRUTH IS GREAT AND
THE TRUTH WILL PREVAIL—Adolf Fischer**

"If death is the penalty that corresponds to our fervent passion for freedom for humanity, then I say loudly, 'Take my life!'

(cont. on pg. 11)

WHAT HAPPENED MAY 1st?...



"Although I was one of the planners of the Haymarket meeting, I did not have anything to do with the bombing. I do not deny I went to the meeting..."

When he got to that point, the defense attorney, Mr. Salomon, called him aside and counseled him not to continue in that vein.

Turning his back to him, he said, "You are very kind, Mr. Salomon. I know very well what I am saying..." And he continued:

"So, the meeting in Haymarket was not called to commit a crime. On the contrary, it was called to protest the attacks and murders by the police at the McCormick Factory.

"The witness Waller and others have confirmed that shortly after the events, we had a meeting to seize the initiative and to call for a popular demonstration. Waller led the meeting and he himself proposed the idea of a meeting at Haymarket. Also, it was he who asked me to get speakers and to write the leaflets. I fulfilled this job by

inviting Spies to speak at the meeting and by having 25,000 leaflets printed. In the original test, these words appeared: 'WORKERS, COME ARMED!' I had my reasons for writing them, because I did not want the workers to be massacred as they had been on other occasions. When Spies saw the original, he refused to take part in the meeting unless these words were taken out. I deferred to his wishes and Spies spoke in Haymarket. That is all that I had to do with the meeting in Haymarket...

"I have never committed a crime in my life. But, there is an individual here who is heading in the direction of becoming a criminal and a murderer. That individual is Mr. Grinell, who has bought false witnesses so that he can sentence us to death. I hereby publicly denounce him.

"This verdict is a death blow to the freedom of the press, to freedom of thought and freedom of speech in this



¡AUNQUE VIVO EN CHICAGO,
SOY BORINCANO!

11 DE JUNIO DE 1988

UNASE AL 11^{MO} DESFILE DEL PUEBLO

*All Out to the
11th Annual
Puerto Rican
People's Parade*

June 11, 1988 11:00pm

Wicker Park

(corner of Schiller and Damen)