

# Immigrants, Supporters Keep Up Pressure

## Sending message of injustice

See story on Portland rally, front page

(AP)—Illegal immigrants and their supporters vowed to keep up the pressure on Congress for reforms after more than 1 million people stepped out of the shadows and poured into the streets in a nationwide show of economic clout.

A day after rallies, boycotts and marches in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Miami and elsewhere, the challenge for immigration advocates was to extend the momentum of Monday's "Day Without Immigrants" into a sustainable effort to get immigrants more involved in the political process.

"We have far exceeded our expectations," said Mahonry Hidalgo, chairman of the Immigration Committee of the Latino

Leadership Alliance of New Jersey. "The events are intended to show solidarity and, at the same time, send a message that injustice against the immigrant community is unacceptable. This is not the end of our struggle. It is the beginning."

The boycott was organized by immigrant activists angered by federal legislation that would criminalize an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants and fortify the U.S.-Mexico border.

While some businesses suffered, the marches were festive—despite divisions among activists who argued a boycott would alienate federal lawmakers.

In all, police departments and local officials in more than two dozen U.S. cities contacted by The Associated Press gave crowd



Demonstrators hold U.S. flags along Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles during an immigration rally Monday. Protests around the country were intended to flex the economic muscle of immigrants and slow or shut down many farms, factories, markets and restaurants for the day. (AP photo)

estimates that totaled about 1.1 million marchers.

Two major rallies in Los Angeles attracted an estimated 400,000, according to the mayor's office. Another 400,000 marched through Chicago's downtown business district, police estimated. The list was long: As many as 30,000 in Houston, 50,000 in San Jose, 30,000 more across Florida. From New Mexico to Tennessee to Massachusetts, smaller rallies attracted hundreds more.

Marchers standing shoulder-to-shoulder sang and chanted and danced in the streets wearing American flags as capes and bandanas. In most cities, those who rallied wore white to signify peace and solidarity and waved signs reading "We are America" and "Today we march, tomorrow we vote."

## Groups Focus on Disaster Ask lawmakers to visit New Orleans

The Links, Inc., an African American volunteer service organization, has joined with three other national women's groups to support Women of the Storm, a non-partisan group of mothers, housewives, lawyers and business owners created to persuade Members of Congress to visit hurricane-ravaged Louisiana.

Women of the Storm was originally made up of women

from South Louisiana and the New Orleans metropolitan area to raise awareness about rebuilding and coastal protection needs.

"The catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina binds us all and leaves none of us unscathed," said The Links' national president Gladys Gary Vaughn. "The Links, Incorporated understands the importance of working together and the necessity of col-

*The catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina binds us all and leaves none of us unscathed.*



laborating with like minded organizations to strongly urge Members of Congress to tour metropolitan New Orleans and pass legislation to rebuild the Gulf Coast Region and protect our most vulnerable citizens."

Established in 1946, The Links is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organization of women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African-Americans and other persons of African descent.

Janet Walker, executive director of The Links, Inc. (left) and Anne Milling of 'Women of the Storm.'



## Drunk Driving Arrest Upsets Liquor Panel

### Acting director named

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has a new acting director to replace the administrator who resigned Thursday after being arrested and charged with drunken driving.

Steve Pharo, the OLCC distilled spirits program director, takes over the job of Teresa Kaiser, who resigned 5 days after an automobile accident near the Ross Island Bridge. Police said her blood alcohol level was measured at .16 percent, twice the legal limit for driving in Oregon.

Kaiser assumed the post Sept. 15, 2003, after several years with Maryland's child support enforcement office. She is a graduate of the Lewis & Clark Law School and worked as an attorney for seven



Teresa Kaiser



Steve Pharo

years as well as in liquor enforcement in Colorado and Washington. She was an OLCC inspector from 1981-1982.

The OLCC board held an emergency meeting on Friday and appointed Pharo as acting executive director.

During Kaiser's tenure at the agency, the OLCC began a two-

year pilot program to allow sales of distilled spirits in separate liquor stores within supermarkets instead of in traditional state-run outlets.

So far, the pilot program has brought in more revenue than expected, the agency has said. But the pilot program has upset some existing liquor agents, who say it will create unfair competition.

## Black Soldiers 10 Percent of War Deaths

Since the March 20, 2003 invasion of Iraq, at least 235 black men and women have died in the Iraq War. A majority of those deaths—196—have been in the Army, 31 in the marines, four in the Navy and three in the Air Force, according to U.S. Dept. of Defense statistics.

The number of black deaths account for roughly 10 percent of the total. A majority of the war deaths, 74 percent have been among whites.

"It is now three years since the beginning of the war in Iraq. In this period, our men and women have fought bravely and valiantly and these soldiers and their families have made tremendous sacrifices," said U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. "Tragically, we have now lost more than 2,300 U.S. soldiers and more than 17,000 have been wounded."

As the number of deaths climbs,

the number of blacks entering the military continues to decline. According to a recent study, African American enlistments have fallen from 20 percent in 2000 to about 15 percent today.

A variety of factors are influencing the lower enlistments, including military recruiting in rural areas and polls that show the protracted war in Iraq is more unpopular with blacks than with other demographic groups.

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