The Swift meatpacking plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, employs thousands of Latino men and women, many of whom may not be US citizens. The plant has been raided at least twice by US government agencies, most notably in 1996 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (after which 148 undocumented workers were deported) and in 2006 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (after which 90 workers were arrested). Whereas many Marshalltown residents have interpreted these raids as just punishment for the “criminal aliens” in their midst, many others have expressed their appreciation for the “color” Latino and Latina residents add to their otherwise mundane Midwestern existence.

You believe that since the …