

# DECEMBER 77

## THIS MONTH

This month **United Mine Workers** may strike the coalfields of Appalachia, if negotiations fail before the current contract expires Dec 6. The miners are fighting for a decent industry-wide contract, for the right to strike around local issues, and especially for health and safety in the mines. The life-and-death nature of their struggle is characterized by the frequent mine disasters, Black Lung disease, and the gun-violence directed against the strikers. Rank-and-file organization and militance is high, with wildcat strikes and armed self-defense underscoring the miners' seriousness. Their leadership in the fight for the basic rights of job safety and the right to strike, against powerful and ruthless industry bosses, should be supported by all working people. See the other side of December's *Community Calendar* for more details.

The **Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union (Local #5)** has been carrying on another, more local, fight for health and safety on the job. Their initiative in exposing and obtaining a partial ban on the use of the dangerous chemical DBCP has nationwide implications for all workers exposed to this or other hazardous and deadly substances. For more on this struggle, see the other side of this month's *Calendar*.

**BOYCOTT COORS!** In April workers at the Coors Brewery in Golden, Colorado, were forced out on strike by outrageous contract proposals. The contract proposed by management called for continuous polygraph (lie detector) examination of workers, illegal invasions of privacy and an open shop as its major parts. Because Coors has a vertical monopoly—owning and controlling companies which cover all the aspects of producing and distributing beer from agriculture to trucking—they could transfer workers from other kinds of plants to the brewery. The boycott is an essential part of the workers' strategy in negotiating the contract. So far in 1977 Coors sales have been cut 21% and in the Bay Area Coors has lost 31% of its sales. (Coors used to be the #1 beer in California.) Coors, which has a long history of right-wing and anti-union activity, has made some concessions in negotiations; they have agreed not to hold disciplinary action in "conduct affecting community morality," and have modified their use of the polygraph. Brewery Workers Local 366 isn't satisfied with the company concessions in the polygraph and they are still fighting preferential hiring and the "open shop." The Coors Boycott Committee will sponsor an organizing event on Dec 2 (see listing). For more information, contact the Boycott Committee at 835-1243.

**Boycott JP Stevens!** Textile workers at JP Stevens Co, the nation's second-largest textile conglomerate, with 50,000 workers in 85 plants have been organizing to gain union recognition for the last 14 years. JP Stevens has located most of its plants in the South, to take advantage of lower wages, anti-union laws, and prevalent racism to keep workers divided. The basic issues that workers are fighting for include job safety—protection against Brown Lung disease—poor pay and seniority. The workers have initiated a boycott of all JP Stevens products, including sheets, pillows, blankets, carpets, towels, linen and hosiery. The JP Stevens Workers Boycott Committee will hold an educational event to support their struggle on Dec 18 (see listing).

**THU 1** "Guatemala, Mi Pais Ocupado," (Guatemala) film about a young woman who finds disillusionment in the city and returns to the countryside as a revolutionary, a Raza Film Series classic (open to the public) at Laney College, 900 Fallon St, Oakland, Rm D200 at 1 pm, and the Forum at 7 pm, free.

"La Nueva Izquierda Venezolana," the new Venezuelan Left, with Teodoro Petkoff, exponent of new revolutionary thought of Latin America, and music by Conjunto Teofilo Leon, plus a documentary film about Venezuela, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$1.

1955: 50,000 Montgomery Blacks begin boycott of the buses protesting segregation in public transportation.

1904: After 15 months of martial law enforced by 2,000 GIs in Cripple Creek and Telluride, Colorado, striking miners win their demands for an 8-hour working day.

**FRI 2** Benefit for the Boycott Coors Committee, dance with *Help Us on the Way*, at Peoples' Cultural Center, 721 Valencia St, SF, 8 pm, \$2.

"The Tutored Tomato: UC and Corporate Agriculture," presentation on the University's role in promoting agribusiness & high-level conflicts of interest, with discussion, slide show & skit, sponsored by Science for the People, at Tan Oak Room, Student Union Bldg, UC, Bancroft & Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, 7:30 pm, free.

"The Family & The State," forum with Eli Zaretsky speaking on the state of the American family, at East Bay Socialist School, 6025 Shattuck Ave, Oakland, 8 pm, 75 cents, childcare provided.

"Descarga Cubana," an Afro-Cuban jam session focusing on Cuban songs with rumbas, guaguancos, comparasas, and the top musicians in the area, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, 9 pm, \$2.50.

Entertainment Extravaganza presented by Olivia Records, with Linda "Tui" Tillery and band, and performances by Pat Parker, Meg Christian, Teresa Tull, and Chris Williamson, at the Oakland Auditorium, 10 Tenth St, Oakland, 8 pm, \$4.50, childcare available, also interpreters for the deaf, call 652-4401 ext 610 for info.

Benefit for **Maryanne Camp** for Hayward City Council, with singer Malvina Reynolds and documentary *Love It Like a Fool*, at Ides Hall, 1105 C St, Hayward, 8 pm, \$3.25 at the door, childcare.

1859: Execution of John Brown, abolitionist leader, who led a group of men in an attempt to capture the US government arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. The raid, which was part of a much larger plan involving the destruction of slavery by the arming of its victims, was unsuccessful. Brown and six of his followers were killed for criminal conspiracy and treason against the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**SAT 3** Benefit for Medical Supplies to Zimbabwe liberation struggle, with speakers, slide show, and dance with *Hedzoleh Soundz*, sponsored by ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), at Peoples' Cultural Center, 721 Valencia St, SF, 8 pm, \$2.50, childcare provided.

Celebration of completion of a new mural, *Winds of Change*, co-sponsored by CommonArts and Co-op Credit Union, at east parking lot of Co-op Credit Union, 1432 University Ave, Berkeley, 2-5 pm, free.

**Peña Fiesta con Mirasol**, Latin rhythms in salsa and jazz, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9:30 pm, \$2.50.

**Children's Program**, with Chriss Orr the Clown showing what it takes to be one, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 1:30 pm, donations.

Entertainment Extravaganza presented by Olivia Records, see Dec 2.

Open House Benefit for COMEXAS printshop, with art by Malquias Montoya, cultural presentations, music, at 1325 Fruitvale, Oakland, from 5 pm.

1946: General strike in Oakland, California.

**SUN 4** 20th Jornada por Chile, *The Sociology & Politics of Sports*, with Harry Edwards, UC professor and 1968 Olympic protest participant, also Cuban film *Cerro Pelada*, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, 7:30 pm, \$1.50 includes wine & empanada.

The **Feminist Writers' Guild** will hold a gathering for women writers, with a speaker on copyright laws and feminist presses, & party following, at Bacchanal Women's Bar, 1369 Solano, Albany, 7-10 pm, (over 21 only).

**Comedy Show** with Dion Lewis, a Sunday Forum sponsored by the Oakland Community Learning Center, 6118 E 14th St, Oakland, 4-6 pm, \$1.

"An Evening of Films With Barbara Hammer," including *Menses*, *Dyketactics*, *Psychosynthesis*, *Superdyke*, & *Eggs*, at the Pacific Center, 2329 San Pablo, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$1.50, women only, childcare provided.

1969: Chicago police murder Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, leaders of the Illinois Black Panther Party, in a night raid.

1970: Cesar Chavez is ordered jailed until he calls off UFWOC lettuce boycott.

## MON 5

**TUE 6** Benefit for the Native Amer. Solidarity Committee, with films *As Long as the River Flows* about West Coast Indians' struggle for fishing rights, and *The Dispossessed*, about Pit River Indians confrontation with PG&E in 1970, also speakers and literature, at the Roxie Cinema, 16th & Valencia, SF, two complete shows, 7:30 & 9:30 pm, \$2.

Films from the **Serious Business Company**, four films by and about women, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8:30 pm, \$1.50.

1869: National Negro labor convention in Washington, DC, creates the Colored National Labor Union.

1932: Fighting poverty and unemployment during the Great Depression, 1,000,000 demonstrate to demand food from the government.

**WED 7** "Rebellion in Patagonia," film about peasants' revolutionary struggle in Argentina, benefit for AISC (Argentine Information Service Center), at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2 donation.

"Arts Administration Workshop," for non-profit organizations, visual, literary & performing artists, directed by Susan Billstein, sponsored by the Alliance of California Arts Councils, Aztlan Cultural, and Junior Center for Art & Science, at 3612 Webster, Oakland, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, \$1.50 for materials, call 931-0187 for reservations.

1931: Mass demonstrations by unemployed workers in Washington DC for unemployment insurance and food. 1,250,000 people participate, over half are Black, the hardest hit of any section of the population.

1941: WWII, US government declares war, arrests 120,000 Japanese-American citizens, confiscates their property, and puts them in concentration camps for the duration of the war. Big corporations make records profits of \$22 billion each year of the war. 100 million people die. Four million veterans return to face unemployment in an economy that only functions with low unemployment during a war or threat of war.

**THU 8** "Memories of Underdevelopment!" Cuban film about post-revolutionary society, a Raza Film Series class (open to the public), free, see Dec 1. "Nuclear Energy & the National Energy Plan," a radio program with guest speakers Bary Commoner & Amory Lovins, on KPFA-FM 94, 8:30 pm.

"The Mother Pluckers," a women's band playing everything from ragtime to rock, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9 pm, \$1.50.

"Collecting Unemployment," a legal workshop sponsored by Pro Per collective, at 1606 Bonita St (upstairs), Berkeley, 7:30 pm, no fees or appointments, donations appreciated.

"Artistic Creations," Abajo del Sol program with feminist artists celebrating the Puerto Rican women's movement, on KQEC-TV, channel 32, 9 pm.

Benefit for **Aim** (American Indian Movement) & Dennis Banks, with music by Floyd Westerman and Max Gails from TV's "Barney Miller," speakers from AIM, including Sid Welsh, sponsored by People's Temple, at 1859 1859 Geary, SF, 7:30 pm, 921-9654 for info.

1886: National trade union conference meets to found American Federation of Labor.

**FRI 9** Prelude to Conference on Women & Violence, with singer Lois Ann Thomas and poet Mary Mackey, also film *Bartered Women: Violence Behind Closed Doors*, sponsored by East Bay Socialist School at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8:30 pm, \$2.

**Chinese Gifts Bazaar**, with Christmas gifts from China, slide shows, food & art, sponsored by the US-China People's Friendship Assoc., 6-10 pm, Unitarian Fellowship Hall, Cedar & Bonita Berkeley (also Dec 10), 50 cents donation.

**Square Dance** with the *Arkansas Sheiks* and Bob Black calling, at Ashkenaz folk dance cooperative, 1317 San Pablo, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2.

**SAT 10** "Women & Violence," a workshop on the relationship between capitalism & violence against women, sponsored by the East Bay Socialist School, with participants Angela Davis, Judith Van Allen, Bay Area Women Against Rape, La Casa de las Madres, Men Against Sexist Violence, and others, at Epic West, 2640 College, Berkeley, 10 am to 3 pm, \$1.50, call 526-1497 for info.

Annual **KPFA Christmas Crafts Faire**, with a wide assortment of hand-made items, and featuring the Bay City Reds, jugglers & acrobats, the Dancing Dill Pickles, Suzie Skates, & Sarah Tomato, at Pauley Ballroom, UC Student Union Bldg, Bancroft & Telegraph, Berkeley, 10 am to 6 pm, \$1 adults, children free (also Dec 11, 17-18), proceeds go to help sponsor KPFA listener-sponsored radio.

**Benefit Dance** with *Mirasol* for Chicana Center, sponsored by Chicana Foundation of N. Cal. at Mills College Student Union Lodge, Oakland, 9 pm to 1 am, \$2.50 advance, \$3 door.

**Berkeley Women's Music Collective Concert** at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9 pm, \$3, childcare call 849-4896.

**Children's Program**, *Circus Day*, with jugglers, clowns, *Rainbow the Mime*, and more, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 10:30 am, donations.

**Chinese Gifts Bazaar**, sponsored by the US-China People's Friendship Assoc., 11 am to 10 pm, see Dec 9.

1956: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) founded in Luanda.

1898: Paris Treaty: Spain cedes Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the US. Monopolies in the US welcome opportunity to reinvest capital in colonial areas, and statesmen speak in terms of strikes.

**SUN 11** Women Against Violence in Pornography & the Media will present a slide show at the Pacific Center, 2329 San Pablo, Berkeley, 7:30 pm, \$1 donation, women only, childcare provided.

**Slide Show & Talk** by Bill & Tania Mandel on recent trip to Eastern Republics of Russia, sponsored by Women for Peace, at Unitarian Fellowship Hall, Bonita & Cedar, Berkeley, 7 pm, \$2.

**Peña Concert**, *An Evening With Woody*, songs & stories of Woody Guthrie presented by Lenny Anderson & Bruce Greene, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8:30 pm, \$1.50.

Annual **KPFA Christmas Crafts Fair**, see Dec 10.

**Fashion Show**, sponsored by the Oakland Community Learning Center, 6118 E 14th St, Oakland, 4-5 pm, \$1, call 562-5262 for info.

1959: Police in Namibia (South West Africa) kill 13 and wound 60 demonstrators protesting racist Bantustan policy. This leads to the formation of SWAPO in early 1960 and the beginnings of a new strategy for national liberation.

## MON 12

**TUE 13** Peña Concert, with Sky's *Rhythm Revue*, East Bay Funk & Chicago Rhythm, 9 pm, \$1.50.

"How to do Your Own Uncontested Divorce," a legal workshop sponsored by Pro Per collective, at 1890 Alcatraz, Berkeley, 3-5 pm, no fees or appointments, donations welcome.

1970: In Poland, strikes and protests begin against anti-popular economic policies and political repression.

**WED 14** Taj Mahal in concert, a benefit for *CommonArts*, a new community-based cultural arts program, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 7:30 & 9:30 pm, \$4, tickets at Leopolds, La Peña, CommonArts, call 843-4010 for info, childcare provided first show only.

"The Family Dynamics of Families with Alcohol & Drug Problems," a discussion facilitated by Katya Hope, family therapist, with some experimental-role playing included, at Berkeley Women's Center, 2112 Channing Way, Berkeley, 8-10 pm, donations, women only.

**THU 15** "Los Olvidados" (Mexico), film about a youth amidst the violence and poverty of the slums of Mexico City, a Raza Film Series class (open to the public), see Dec 1.

"Eloisa Vasquez y su Cuadro Flamenco," Pena Concert with music, dance & poetry in the flamenco tradition, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8:15 & 9:45 pm, \$3.

**FRI 16** Benefit for **Graham & Allen Defense Committee** (two Black men on death row falsely accused of killing a prison guard), with speakers & film *Bushman*, at St Augustine Church, 29th & Telegraph, Oakland, 8 pm, \$2, childcare provided.

"Bloody Blundering Business," premier film showing about the Philippine-American War (1898), the US's first war in Asia, with discussion following on the current struggle for national liberation in the Philippines, sponsored by the International Assoc of Filipino Patriots, at Freedom Hall, Glide Memorial Church, 330 Ellis St, SF, 7:30 pm, call 451-9069 or 482-3400 for more info.

"Yawar Mallku" (Blood of the Condor) premier performance of musical group from Latin America, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9 pm, \$3.

A **People's Holiday**, with music & dance by students and teachers at Everybody's Creative Arts Center, 4939 Broadway (at 51st), Oakland, also special guest performances by Janet Jacobson, Jeannie Kates, and Pat Frey, 8 pm, \$2.50.

**SAT 17** Annual **KPFA Christmas Crafts Fair**, with a wide assortment of hand-made items, also featuring the Bay City Reds jugglers and acrobats, the Dancing Dill Pickles, Suzie Skates, and Sarah Tomato, at Pauley Ballroom, UC campus, Telegraph & Bancroft, Berkeley, 10 am to 6 pm, \$1 adults, children free, proceeds go to help sponsor KPFA FM 94 listener-sponsored radio.

"Hedzoleh Soundz," Peña Fiesta with authentic African Hi-Life Funk, from Ghana, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9:30 pm, \$2.50.

**Children's Program**, with the *Children's Ballet Folklorico de Mexico*, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 1:30 pm, donations.

**Benefit for People's Food System**, dinner at 6:30 pm, \$1.50, dance with *Mirasol* afterwards, \$2 advance, \$2.50 door, at People's Cultural Center, 721 Valencia, SF.

**Multi-Cultural Festival of Dance & Music**, featuring jazz by Bobby Hutcherson & group. Plus much more. Sponsored by Berkeley High Afro-American Studies and Everybody's Creative Arts Center, at Berkeley Community Little Theater, Allston at Grove, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$4 advance, \$5 door, call 547-9498 for info.

1975: Despite declaration of martial law in the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, under mass pressure from the workers' movement, is forced to lift his total ban on strikes.

**SUN 18** An Evening of Solidarity with the JP Stevens textile workers, featuring *Testimony*, a documentary film on the organizing struggle at JP Stevens' N Carolina plant, a discussion with Sharon Farrell, textile workers' organizer, and film classic *The Inheritance*, about American labor struggles of the '30s, and special guest Malvina Reynolds, sponsored by JP Stevens Boycott Committee, with proceeds to be shared with the Brown Lung Assoc, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2.

**Open House at Berkeley Free Clinic**, with tours, free refreshments, videotape on patients' rights, free blood-pressure check, drawing for prizes, and more, at Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant, Berkeley, 11 pm to 5 pm, free, children welcome.

"23 Billion Burgers to Earth!" radio program looks at increasing monopolization and labor management techniques in the restaurant industry, on KPFA-FM 94, 10 am.

**Discussion** with Merlin Stone, author of *When God Was a Woman*, uncovering the matriarchal basis of religion, at A Woman's Place Bookstore, College & Broadway, Oakland, 1-5 pm, free, children welcome.

"Everybody's Recreation Nite," an evening of exploration, entertainment, and expression, at Everybody's Creative Arts Center, 4939 Broadway (at 51st), Oakland, 7-12 pm, \$5 (\$3.50 from 8:30 pm, \$2.50 from 9:30 pm), call 547-9498 for info.

"Alive!" women's jazz trio performs at the Pacific Center, 2329 San Pablo, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2.50, women only, childcare provided.

**Children's Play**, sponsored by the Oakland Community Learning Center, at 6118 E 14th St, Oakland, 4 pm, call 562-5262 for info.

1865: 13th Amendment abolishes human slavery.

**MON 19** "Women & Loneliness at Holidays," a discussion facilitated by Toni Taylor at the Berkeley Women's Center, 2112 Channing Way, Berkeley, 7:30 pm, women only, donations.

1915: Joe Hill, *International Workers of the World (IWW)* organizer and singer, is framed and hung in Utah despite worldwide protest. His last words were "Don't mourn, organize!"

**TUE 20** Peña Concert with Russel Baba, music from the Asian-American experience, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$1.50.

1946: Ho Chi Minh calls on Vietnamese people to rise against French colonialism.

1960: Organization of National Liberation Front in Vietnam.

**WED 21** Benefit for the **American Indian Survival School**, with Dennis Banks speaking and Native American Drummers, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2 donation.

**Winter Solstice Celebration for Women & Kids**, at Berkeley Women's Center, 2112 Channing Way, Berkeley, 6-8 pm, kids bring homemade or inexpensive gifts to exchange, refreshments provided, donations.

1970: 5,000 Okinawans protest 25 years of US occupation by invading the base and burning 83 AF vehicles, a base school and a guard house. GIs are ordered to riot control duty.

1919: Emma Goldman and 250 other "anarchists" and "undesirables" were deported to Russia. She was a Russian Jew who emigrated to America in 1886 and became a leading spokesperson for women's rights. "History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts."

**THU 22** Peña Concert with Pan Fever, traditional West Indian Steel Drums and western jazz on steel drums, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9 pm, \$2.

**Folsom Prison Writers & Shades of Kim Chi Ha**, radio rebroadcast of one of the last sessions of the *Folsom Prison Poets Workshop* before it was stopped, featuring many prisoner poets and Korea's most popular poet, condemned to death by the US-backed Pak regime, on KPFA FM 94, 12 noon.

**Indian Families' Festival in the Winter Moon**, a Communal Christmas Party sponsored by the Intertribal Friendship House, at Franklin Elementary School, 915 Foothill, Oakland, 7-10 pm, donations (free to Native American families), call 452-1235 for info.

**FRI 23** Benefit for the **Assata Shakur & Dessie Woods Defense Committee**, with speakers and film *Passing Thru*, at People's Cultural Center, 721 Valencia, SF, 8 pm, \$2.

"Festival de la Nueva Cancion Latino-Americana," the new song of Latin America, a musical expression of the political realities of Latin America, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9 pm, \$2.

**SAT 24** "Roots of Creation!" Peña Fiesta with reggae from Jamaica, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 9:30 pm, \$2.50.

**Children's Program** with the *Jackson Mime & Puppet Company*, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 1:30 pm, donation.

## SUN 25

1786: Shay's Rebellion. Working people in Mass. rise up in arms against heavy taxes and denial of political rights by newly established US government.

## MON 26

1893: Birth of Mao Tse-tung, leader of the 1949 Chinese Revolution.

1921: Repression against nitrate miners in Chile leads to San Gregorio Massacre.

## TUE 27

**WED 28** Benefit for the **Sid Welsh Defense Committee & American Indian Movement (AIM)**, with music & speakers in struggle against the repression of Native Americans, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2 donation.

1890: Massacre of Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, by US troops. The US Army disarms the last of the Sioux Nation and murders 300 unarmed Native Americans to revenge Custer. 26 Medals of Honor are awarded by the Pentagon.

**THU 29** "Marcos & Martial Law," a radio program featuring testimony of victims of atrocities under the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines, with music by *The Chroniclers*, on KPFA FM 94, 8:30 pm.

"Lucia," classic film from Cuba in honor of the anniversary of the Victory of the Cuban Revolution (January 1), at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$1.50.

**FRI 30** Peña Fiesta with Emory & the New York Corporation, Latin & Soul disco music, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8 pm, \$2.

1937: Great General Motors strike at Flint, Michigan, ends. Management surrenders. The workers had occupied the factory for 44 days while wives and children picketed in thousands.

**SAT 31** Peña "Gran Fiesta," a Celebration of the Cuban Revolution, with film *The Moncada Program* from Cuba, slide show, singers, and salsa fiesta with *Tipica Cienfuegos*, co-sponsored by the Venceremos Brigade & La Peña, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 8:30 pm, Fiesta 10 pm to 2 am, \$4 advance, \$4.50 door.

1863: English workers send letter, written by Karl Marx, to Pres. Lincoln supporting the abolition of slavery. This international solidarity by the British workers helped keep the British government from entering the war on the side of the slave owners.

1969: Jock Yablonski, rank-and-file miners' reform leader in Kentucky, is murdered, along with his wife & children, by hired gun thugs. Tony Boyle, then entrenched United Mine Workers (UMW) president, was later convicted of murder.

## ETCETERA

**Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center** offers women's self-help groups beginning the first Thursday of each month. Information sharing to learn more about women's bodies and for women to take control of their bodies. Topics depend on the women involved. 7 to 9 pm, 2930 McClore, Oakland. Call 444-5676 for further information.

**People Against Nuclear Power**, educational gathering. Film *The Last Resort*, follows potluck dinner at 6 pm. Film at 7:30. Free. Children welcome. Call 752-7766 for further information.

**United Farm Workers Food Drive** needs donations of staples such as white rice, beans, coffee, tea, sugar, canned goods, etc. Contact the UFW at 2205 14th Ave, Oakland (533-3477).

**The Pacific Center for Human Growth** offers services for gays, bisexuals, spouses of gays, and others, including professional & para-professional counseling, supportive rap groups, crisis information line, and switchboard referrals on health, legal, and job info, also a speakers' bureau is available. Call 841-6224 for information.

**Three films from Japan**, *Snow Country* (Dec 1), *Floating Weeds* (Dec 8), and *Stray Dog* (Dec 15) will be shown in the Laney College Asian Film Series (open to the public), Thursdays at 7 pm, Room D200, Laney College, 900 Fallon, Oakland, free.

**The East Bay Single Parent Resource Center** sponsors drop-in rap sessions every Wed, 7-9 pm, at St John's Center, College & Garber, Berkeley, and potluck raps the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month, 6-9 pm, childcare provided. Call 841-1958 for more information.

**Free Film Series**, every Tuesday at 7 pm, at the Oakland Community Learning Center, 6118 E. 14th St, Oakland, call 562-5261 for schedule.

**Medical Services** are offered at the *George Jackson Free Clinic*, 3230 Adeline St, Berkeley, free or donations accepted, call 653-2534 for appointment. Podiatry Clinic Weds 2-4 pm, Gyn/Prenatal Blood Test/VD Screening Thurs 7-10 pm, Pediatric Services Mon 6-8 pm & Tues 2-5 pm.

**Subscriber's Note:** Beginning January 1977 we are forced to raise the subscription rate for the *Community Calendar* to \$5 per year. Postal rates are going up soon, as are other costs of producing the *Calendar*. We hope this won't prevent anyone from subscribing. We think its still one of the best bargains around.

## LIST YOUR EVENT!

The value of the *Community Calendar* as a tool in supporting struggles for social change depends on your organization's participation. The 5000 *Calendars</*

## United Mineworkers' Contract:

The national coal contract between the United Mine Workers (UMW) and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) will expire December 6. The national contract is negotiated with the 130 coal companies in the BCOA—located mainly in the coalfields of West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The main issues in the contract are: the right of UMW locals to strike over unresolved grievances, refinancing the union's health fund (cut-backs in June brought 8500 miners out on a wildcat strike), improved wages (current average is \$6.67 an hour), and promotion according to seniority.

Leading up to this negotiation there have been wildcat strikes and rank-and-file activity over issues of safety and the union health fund. Still, rank-and-file members are wondering whether the UMW leadership will effectively press their demands at the bargaining table. The UMW represents fewer miners now than it did ten years ago—around 50% now compared to over 70% then. Also, a growing number of coal companies have opened nonunion, highly productive strip mines in the West, which, along with stockpiled coal, will be used against the UMW.

The industry is braced for a long strike. Many coal companies are controlled by other industries. Oil monopolies in particular have large holdings in coal. The two prime consumers of coal, steel companies and utilities have 100-day stockpiles. Bethlehem Steel Co has such a large stockpile that it laid off 1200 miners at six of its Pennsylvania mines. The industry has also been advertising extensively, cashing in on the oil shortage scare again to get people to buy coal.

In the long run the strength of the UMW will depend on how seriously it takes up organizing the unorganized miners across the country.

The mineworkers' struggle is important to workers all over the country for several reasons. Coal mining is a very basic industry; the steel industry and utilities depend upon it. Miners throughout the world are heavily exploited and controlled because the costs of extracting basic resources determine, in part, the profits in all industry. Mineworkers, because of their position in the workforce and the degree to which they are exploited, have waged some of the most important and militant struggles in labor history.

Miners and their families have organized at a rank-and-file level over the last 100 years to fight against terrible conditions in the mines and the ravages of black lung. They have organized against company town housing monopolies and for striking families' welfare rights during bitter winters; and they have fought the mining companies to maintain their homes and countryside against strip mining, flooding, pollution & other effects of the mining industry.



ANY MORE CUTBACKS IN HEALTH BENEFITS, AND MY PENSION WILL CONSIST OF A COFFIN.

## SAFETY AND MEDICAL BENEFITS ARE THE MAIN ISSUES

Two of the most important rank-and-file mineworkers' struggles in the past year have been the wildcat strike over the health fund cutbacks which spread over Appalachia from June into September, and the strike against the Blue Diamond Coal Co in Stearns, Kentucky, for a UMW contract.

The Stearns strike has been going since July 17, 1976. The company officials, who refuse to agree to a contract provision which permits miners to leave their jobs if the safety committee deems the conditions unsafe, are the same officials responsible for the deaths of 26 miners in March, 1976, at the Scotia Mine in Letcher County, Ky. The miners died in two methane gas explosions caused by inadequate ventilation; the second explosion was only two days after the first one. The families of the Scotia miners have still not gotten justice in their suit against the Blue Diamond Co.

The miners' determination to have a UMWA safety committee in the mine has led to severe harassment from the company and its hirelings. Blue Diamond hired the Storm Security Company to "guard" the Stearns mine after the strike began, and soon pickets found themselves dodging bullets. Rather than give up the strike, the miners armed themselves, set up sandbags on the picket line, and held their ground. Miners, who are defending their right to unionize and bargain for safe conditions, are being framed in the courts for assault. The same courts acquitted a mine foreman of murdering a striker at Brookside, Ky, in 1974, despite witnesses.

The wildcat strike over the UMWA Health and Retirement Fund cuts brought out miners in West Virginia, the heart of the strike, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Before the cuts UMWA members and their families received free medical care. The cuts, which were proposed by the coal operators and initially accepted by the Health and Retirement Fund, meant that these families would have to pay the first \$250 of hospital bills and 40% of out-patient medical costs. This is an enormous reduction that also meant closing down some medical facilities entirely (in places where there are no other clinics) and a loss of jobs for health workers. Through rank-and-file militance, the UMW leadership has been forced to take a stand. The fund continues to be an issue in the contract negotiation.

Both of these strikes indicate how much the mineworkers' strength depends on rank-and-file organization. Workers all over can see how rank-and-file organization needs to begin at one mine and extend to a fully organized community to defend itself and survive, and that, in the long run, the rank-and-file movement needs to be organized nationally.

Information for this article came from Mountain Life and Work, magazine of the Appalachian South, July, Aug & Sept '77; Obrero en Marcha, political organ of El Comité MINP, Oct '77; The Guardian, Oct 26, '77.

## Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Fight Pesticide Company in the Courts:

Rumors that had been going around at the Lathrop, California, plant of Occidental Chemical for six months drew the attention of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local #5 in July of this year. Varying in form, the rumors all pointed to the fact that none of the men in the Ag-Chem department had become fathers in quite some time. After confirming this fact statistically through medical records, Local 5 set out to find the cause of the problem. By mid-July DBCP was isolated as the malefactor, but many of the workers had already suffered irreversible reproductive impairment. DBCP is a complex chemical compound used to kill root pests on food crops. It was being manufactured under license from its co-developers, Dow and Shell. Local 5 has court actions and compensation cases pending on behalf of the workers.

Spurred by Local 5, Cal-OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) held five days of hearings that resulted in a partial ban on the use or production of DBCP in the US.

The reports resemble a double edition of the Oakland phone book and yield many insights into the relationship between the academic and business communities.

In late 1954 and early 1955, UCSF did a series of reports on DBCP as part of the procedure for licensing DBCP for production and use in this state. The leader of the research team for DBCP at UCSF was Dr Charles Hine who, in 1961, issued a joint report with a Dow research team on the compound. This Hine-Torkelson report is a summary of all the research done. Although the joint authorship supposedly indicated impartial research, this is simply not the case.

The report, issued to "the public" in September, 1961, was buried in a chemical journal. It called DBCP long acting (meaning it does not break down readily) and damaging to the testes, liver, eyes, kidneys and digestive system. It states that "injury caused by this compound was noted to be particularly slow in healing."

As in the confidential reports to Shell during the license procedure tests, the researchers found DBCP was dangerous in blood levels as low as five parts per million and could enter the body by being eaten, as a vapor, or through the skin. The bibliography of the Hine-Torkelson report cites other reports going back to 1925 which point to the extreme dangers of compounds closely related to DBCP.

The Occidental workers, 2000 other industrial workers and tens of thousands of farmworkers and consumers should not have had to expose themselves to this deadly chemical.



"I KEEP TELLING YOU, CHARLIE, THOSE CHEMICALS WON'T HURT YOU! NOW, WILL YOU GO BACK TO WORK?"

In a written response to this report, Louis Lykken of Shell suggested to Hine that since the "papers read with considerable difficulty" the report needed "to be tightened up" since "such papers are frequently read by a layman." He recommended removal of the report's high safety standards for the handling and production of DBCP. He also suggested sections on first aid and medical treatment had no place in a report on the toxicology and pharmacology for a compound.

Evidently Hine did tighten up because beginning with a \$15,000 grant to Hine Laboratories in 1962, his research has been supported by Shell in five figures. The last gift of \$25,000 was for Hines' work at UCSF and came in July of 1977, shortly after Local 5 began kicking up dust. Despite all this, Dr Hine filed a negative conflict of interest report in this matter in May of 1977 with the Regents.

Local 5 has filed suit on behalf of the affected workers and DBCP production and use has been ordered halted, but the problem does not end there. DBCP's big selling point included its long-acting ability and, like DDT, it will be around in water, soil and air indefinitely. Its cumulative effects have never been studied, or if they have, the report is still buried. DBCP was indicated to be a possible carcinogen by an American Cancer Society preliminary report in 1973. The crux of the matter is that DBCP is one of a family of closely related compounds, all of which are strongly suspect, but which are being developed and used with no regard for the health or safety of workers or the general public.

Long-range effects of powerful chemicals are seldom, if ever, studied in the rush to get a new product on the market, and the resulting list of health, safety and ecological disasters grows at a rate that staggers the imagination. The actions of the academic and business communities in these matters are criminal.

While the capitalists figure a definite amount of death, disease, "accidents" and worker suits into their costs and profits, union leadership often compromises on health and safety. It's up to rank-and-file workers to demand full information about materials they work with, to demand safer conditions, to demand adequate redress for damage to their health, and to insist that the leadership not compromise on regulations.

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This calendar is a project of Inkworks Press, a printing and publishing collective. The production and editorial work group is composed of some people from Inkworks and others active in East Bay community and political work. The calendar began in March, 1976. Our goal is to publicize the political and cultural struggles for radical social change in our area.

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