

THIS MONTH

Decent Housing is a Right! January's *Community Calendar* features the struggle for decent, affordable housing as a public right. With the vacancy rate at an incredible 1%, housing costs climbing 20% per year, and rents being raised almost as fast as conditions deteriorate, tenants must unite to fight. Human needs, not speculators' profits is the organizing cry of a growing tenants movement. See this month's article by local tenants' union activists for more details, and see listings for January 4, 8, 9, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29.

The trial of Christine Calhoun is scheduled to begin in Alameda County on January 7. Christine was a battered woman who defended herself after her husband attempted to push her and their infant child off a third floor balcony. The district attorney has charged her with murder with a possible life sentence. She needs much community support. For details, contact the Bay Area Committee for Battered Women at 652-0195. Also, see listings for January 12 and 26.

Members of the Hawaiian Movement are in the Bay Area to gain support in the struggle of leprosy patients of Hale Mohalu who are fighting eviction by the state. Most of the patients are Hawaiian and feel their "aina" (land) is being tipped off by state designs to allow land to be used by private developers. The struggle is 2 years old, and has had great impact on the community. Join them to protest the continuing violation of human rights of the patients. See listing for January 10.

Labor and Workers' Safety is the theme of several events this month. From radioactive hazards to nuclear workers, to asbestos contamination in various manufacturing operations, to chemical exposures to countless workers and consumers, the fight for workers' control over the safety of their jobs is becoming a life or death issue. See listings for January 2, 6, 16, 18, 23, 30.

TUE 1 Happy New Year from the Community Calendar Group!

1975: Armed Menominee Warriors occupy an unused 64-room Alaskan Brothers monastery near their reservation in Gresham, Wisconsin, seeking the facilities for use as a hospital.

1959: Victory of the Cuban Revolution, ended US-aided Batista dictatorship.

1863: Emancipation Proclamation abolishes slavery in the US.

WED 2 "We Can't Pay, We Won't Pay," a political comedy that is a definite must to see.

Things get rolling when a nimble-witted housewife takes direct action against Italy's mounting economic crisis. Performed by the San Francisco Mime Troupe who bring it here from the theaters of Europe. This will be its last week of running, 8 pm, Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. SF. \$5, group and student rates \$4, PAS vouchers accepted. Call 285-1717 or 863-7576 for more info.

Gray Panther Meeting for general membership on the Berkeley housing crisis. 2:15 pm at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, Berk. w/CH

Australian Anti-Nuclear Movement. John Baker, labor organizer from Australia, will speak about the anti-nuclear movement in his country. The unions are strongly anti-nuclear and have employed 2a variety of creative tactics during nationwide strikes. 7 pm, free, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page, SF.

1920: "Palmer Raids" carried out by federal police under the direction of Attorney General Palmer and J. Edgar Hoover, in which 10,000 workers active in trade-union and revolutionary movements were arrested, many of the large numbers of immigrants arrested were deported.

1847: "Battle of Mustard Stalks" in Santa Clara, California, where native Californios battled US troops in the last organized resistance to US occupation in California.

THU 3 Hacia la Victoria Siempre!

A celebration of the victories of the 70's and the coming of age of the Cuban Revolution. Cuban poetry followed by an open reading of our favorite radical poetry. 7:45 pm, donations, La Peña Community Center, 3190 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

"We Can't Pay, We Won't Pay." See Jan. 2 listing.

Plan for International Women's Day. Sponsored by the East Bay International Women's Day Committee. 6 to 8 pm, free, Martin Luther King Library, 6833 E. 14th St. Oak. You can write to 314 17th St #502 or call 532-2773 for more info.

New Pantomime Theater in an exclusive direct-from-Colombia visit offering popular music from Colombia and Latin America. 8:30 pm, \$2.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

FRI 4 Back in the Saddle, a musical variety show featuring original and traditional compositions accentuating progressive country swing, contemporary pop jazz, bluegrass and dixie blues.

9 pm, \$3.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

"We Can't Pay, We Won't Pay." Friday rate \$6. See Jan. 2 listing.

Alive! in concert. Sponsored by the Support Coalition for Indigenous People. 8:30 to 12 pm, Ibsen Hall, Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. SF.

1493: Columbus returns to Europe, taking with him six Indian captives.

SAT 5 "TV Dinner" is a mini-musical for the entire family.

Set in the Mission District, this play was developed with help from young friends of the San Francisco Mime Troupe. The lively action pits a young TV junkie against sinister forces of mind control. 2 pm, \$2, family rate \$10, PAS voucher accepted. Call 285-1717 for more info. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. SF.

Camera Obscura. A journal of feminism and film theory. Readers are invited to discuss with the editors issues raised in the first volume. Comments are welcome for future articles. Call 549-0655 for childcare. 2 to 5 pm, free, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Lesbian Clinic at the Berkeley Women's Health Collective. 11 to 3 pm, sliding scale. Call for appointment, 843-6194. At 2908 Ellsworth, Berk. w/CH

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"We Can't Pay, We Won't Pay." Sat. rate \$6. See Jan. 2 listing.

Alive! Rooted in the growing women's culture movement, the members of Alive! create a rich new powerful polyrhythmic sound which suggests a multiplicity of musical forms. 2 shows, 8 & 9:45 pm, \$3.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

SUN 6 Free Day. Everybody's Creative Arts Center is sponsoring free workshops on its "Joy of Creativity" day.

starting at 11 am. If you're interested in ballet, acting, jazz dance, Nigerian dance, or choreography using video feedback, come and enjoy yourself at 354 21st St. Oak. Call 451-1230 for time and further info.

Society of Ousted Scientists demonstrate in an informational picket to protest discrimination against minority group members and women by the scientific establishment. 11:30 am to 1:30 in front of the Convention of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science, at the SF Hilton, call 849-3089 for more info.

"TV Dinner," see Jan 5 listing

Women's Political Images in Art, a presentation of over 100 slides, of contemporary paintings, posters, drawings, batiks, cartoons and sculptures, presented by Rosalie Cassell at the Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. 4 pm, \$1.50 donation, childcare available, everyone welcome. w/CH

Oracle-Feminist Books, a meeting for women who are interested in joining the bookstore collective. 6 pm, at 22640 Main St. Hayward, call 886-1268 for more info. w/CH

"We Can't Pay, We Won't Pay," see Jan 2 listing.

New Pantomime Theater, on tour from Bogota, Colombia at 2 pm, an original pantomime show for children, \$2 adults, \$1 children, and at 8 pm, "La Madriguera," a prize-winning theater presentation giving an intimate and critical view of a defeated dictator and his secretary hiding out from the revolution. \$3, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Labor and the Nuclear Issue, a conference for labor and anti-nuclear people to learn about and exchange views on nuclear power and its alternatives, sponsored by AFSCME 1695, Abalone Alliance, and the Bay Area Rank and File Coalition, with keynote speaker Barry Commoner, \$5 donation, \$3 for the unemployed, lunch and childcare provided, at Laney College, 9th and Fallon, Oak, call 845-8128 for more info.

1975: 12,000 black workers strike at Vaal Reef's gold mine in South Africa.

1970: Miners in West Virginia stage a wildcat strike to protest the murder of reform leader Jack Yablonski.

1946: "Back Home Movement" in the Philippines begins as GIS in the Pacific Occupation Forces seize jeeps and tour the island, calling for mass demonstrations to demand an end to the US government plans to remain and occupy Asia.

1937: Abraham Lincoln Brigade forms to fight fascism in Spain.

1927: US Marines invade Nicaragua for the second time to fight against the Sandinista Movement's national liberation forces.

MON 7 New Dance Series, at Everybody's Creative Arts Center.

learn Afro-American Dance, Jazz Dance, Choreography, acting and musical theater, reasonable rates, private music lessons for \$7 an hour also offered, call 451-1230 for schedules and times or come to 354 21st St. Oak.

Blue Monday with the Luther Tucker Band beginning a series of blues concerts every Monday, featuring Richie Mflam, whose vocals has been working in the bay area now for 10 years and has made a major impact on the blues scene. 9 pm, \$2.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Native American Defense Committee will have a benefit on its Second Anniversary, 8 pm, contributions, at 225 Valencia St. SF.

TUE 8 Women in Art History, a ten-week course offered at the Berkeley Adult School.

7 to 10 pm, slide lectures of over 1000 slides of recently rediscovered women's artwork, \$20 to general, senior citizens free, enroll at 1950 Carleton St. Berk. or call 644-6130.

Lesbian Clinic, see Jan 5 listing.

Chaplin Film Festival, with *The Champion*, *Triple Trouble* and *Easy Street*. 7:30 pm, \$1.50, \$1 children, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Support the Hale Mohalu Patients, members of the Hawaiian Movement and Halt Eviction of Leprosy Patients Committee are giving a lecture and slide show of leprosy patients in Hale Mohalu fight eviction by the state, at the Oakland Public Library, West Auditorium, 7 pm, free, 125 14th St. Oak, see Jan 10 listing.

1964: US troops massacre Panamanian students protesting the continued occupation of the canal zone.

1934: Farmworkers in California's Imperial Valley strike to fight against growers' violence and kidnapping of organizers.

1811: Slave revolt outside New Orleans suppressed by US troops.

WED 9 Problems of Southeast Asian refugees, a teach-in with stress on the particular aspects of refugee problems that are of impact to Jews.

featuring Dr. Joel Rocamura, of the Southeast Asian Resource Center, Laola Hironaka of Amnesty International, and Dr. Tran Zuan Ninh, a pediatrician and former refugee, 7:30-10:30 pm, at 2736 Bancroft Way, Berk.

"Agent Orange" Vietnam veterans are discovering the relationship of unexplained health problems and their exposure to Agent Orange while in Vietnam. This defoliant was sprayed over five million acres in Vietnam. A film showing, folk-singer Tom Hunter and veteran Jack McCloskey speaking, 8-10:30 pm, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1946: "Back Home Movement" spreads to include 18,000 GIS in Guam, 15,000 in Honolulu, and 5,000 in Calcutta marching against US government plans to continue the occupation of Asia.

THU 10 California Anti-Hunger Coalition, topics for discussion shall focus on food and nutrition issues with an emphasis on developing a directory of services currently being rendered and an assessment of the community's needs.

1-4 pm, free, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Support the People of Hale Mohalu, a slideshow and talk by members of the Hawaiian Movement and the struggle of the leprosy patients of Hale Mohalu who are fighting eviction, a question-and-answer period follows, and songs from the Hawaiian movement. 7:30 pm, donation, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Women's Art and Writing, saying what needs to be said, a ten-week course at the Berkeley Adult School taught by Rosalie Cassell, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$20 fee, seniors free, 1950 Carleton St. Berk.

Vickie Randal Band, returning to La Peña, one of the strongest and most creative bands to come out of the wealth of musical talent in the bay area, 9 pm, \$3.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1776: Tom Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" published, stirring the movement for revolution and independence from the British empire.

FRI 11 Anda Jaleo! An incredible flamenco troupe returns with an evening of flamenco singers, dancers and guitarists presenting a colorful and festive program of authentic Spanish dances.

8:30 pm, \$3, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1912: 20,000 textile workers in Lawrence, Mass., including many immigrants, women and children, strike and picket for better wages and conditions.

SAT 12 Bay Area Defense Committee for Battered Women is having a general membership meeting discussing pending cases and organizational business.

2-4 pm, free, YMCA, 2134 Alston Way, Berk, children are welcome, call 652-0195 for more info.

Socialist Review 10th Anniversary, a celebration to start 1980 right on the left foot! A two-hour program with Robin Flower and Friends, Daniel Ellsberg, and Robert Meeropol among others. A dance follows until 2 am with Gayle Rubin as DJ, program begins at 1 pm, \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door, Finnish Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berk. Call 653-6100 for advance childcare, tickets available at Cody's Books in Berk. and Modern Times in SF.

Poets Potluck, sponsored by the Bay Area Poets Coalition, featuring poetry by Anita Patterson, 7 pm, free, W. Berk. Public Library, 1125 University Ave. Berk.

Ital Breed, the best Reggae band on the West Coast, former members of the Roots of Creation, 9:30 pm, \$3.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1917: Mass march in Washington, DC demands women's suffrage.

SUN 13 Yankee Psychiatry South of the Border. The Bay Area Committee for Alternatives to Psychiatry (BACAP) sponsors a panel discussion with Sylvia Marcos, Mexican Coordinator for the International Network Alternatives to Psychiatry, will address the spread of Western psychiatry into Mexico and the psychology of minorities among other topics.

A discussion will follow. 7:30 pm, \$2, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Eyewitness Report on Vietnam. The Association of Vietnamese Patriots in the United States invites you to a special program, a talk and slide show on the current situation in Vietnam by a member just recently returned from Vietnam. Donations, 8 pm, La Peña Cultural, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Irish Country Music and Dancing. Lively jigs and reels for dancing with music of ancient airs played on the harp, Irish dancer Larry Lunch hosts an old-fashioned ceilidh, a gathering of music and dance, 2 pm, \$1-4 sliding scale, call 548-2687 for more info, Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College, Berk. w/CH

1942: The first communist daily in the English language, The Daily Worker, begins publication.

MON 14 Health Advocacy, a joint forum by the Berkeley Free Clinic and the Berkeley Women's Health Collective.

a discussion and role plays about the legal and human rights of patients in the health care system, along with a videotape, "Your Patient Rights," 7:30 pm, free, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

"The Birth of a Nation," presented by the Afro-American Studies Dept, UC Berkeley. This classic silent film depicts the Civil War and Reconstruction. 7:30 pm, \$1.50, Pacific Film Archives, 2621 Durant Ave. Berk.

Blue Monday with the Tom McFarland Blues Band, keeping strong the tradition of blues in the Bay Area and making a dynamic second Blue Monday at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. 9 pm, \$2.50. w/CH

1975: Portugal signs an agreement with the Angolan national liberation movements, granting transition to independence after 14 years of armed struggle.

TUE 15 Hearing & Speech Disorders workshop, sponsored by Bananas Child Care Service.

led by Amy Faltz, speech pathologist, 7:30 pm, free, call 658-6046 for childcare in advance, at 6501 Telegraph, Oak.

"On the Line," a film synthesizing a variety of frustrations of people and how they decide not to be at the mercy of the system any longer, along with *The Conspiracy or How Transnationals Do It*, a film on how giant corporations' power is achieved and the implications, 8:30 pm, \$2, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

"The Birth of a Nation," see Jan 14 listing.

1929: Birthdate of Martin Luther King, Jr.

WED 16 Plexus Mailing, come help spread the news on women's issues.

12-3 pm, 2600 Dwight Way, Rm 209, childcare, call 841-2476 for more info.

"Song of the Canary," as part of the "Here's to your Health" film series on environmental health hazards. This documentary concentrates on workplace hazards in two fields—agricultural chemicals and cotton. Co-sponsored by the Conservation and Resource Studies Dept at UC Berkeley, 4 pm, 145 Dwinelle, free.

National Land for People, a benefit evening featuring Lenny Anderson, The Bluestein Family, and Carmen Moren. Come help celebrate the beginning of a critical year in the fight of small farmers against the agribusiness giants, 8 pm, \$5 donation, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Prairie Fire Rock and Revolt, rock and roll music by the Revolutionary Communist Party, 9 pm, \$4, at the Boarding House, 960 Bush St. SF.

1966: First Tri-Continental Congress in Cuba, and creation of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and America Latina (OSPAA).

THU 17 "Threepenny Opera," This film is based on the play by Bertolt Brecht.

It takes place in Berlin and deals with crime and prostitution. Made in 1931. 7:30 pm, \$2.50, Pacific Film Archives, 2621 Durant, Berk. Call 642-1413 for more info.

Poetry for the People, a reading and book party from recently published work, donation requested, 8 pm, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Ragtime Concert with Rick Winston. A couple of hours of virtuoso piano renditions of ragtime and early jazz, a fantastic toe-tapping concert, 8:30 pm, \$2.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1961: Patrice Lumumba, leader of the struggle against Belgian colonialism in the Congo, assassinated.

FRI 18 "Anatomy of a Labor Contention," KPFA FM 94 presents this radio program on the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAUW).

Its leadership and its rank and file represents many aspects of contemporary North American labor. The OCAUW held its biennial convention last August in Miami. Scott McAllister was there to report. 7-8 pm.

"Unbound Feet" is a collective of six women who are writing their own material to celebrate Asian American womanhood. They will read their material in an evening of poetry and drama at La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

FRI 19 Psychology and Politics of Parenting. This workshop will examine new family patterns emerging in American society and assess interpersonal and political implications.

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Parent Involvement, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, \$25, Mills College, Oakland.

Steel Drum Workshop, the New Petroleum Symphony, a unique community steel drum orchestra, seeks experienced musicians to fill several vacancies. Dennis Kaufman, director, along with several existing NPS members, will conduct a free steel drum demonstration and recruitment workshop. 6:30 pm, La Peña Community Center, 3109 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Chevere! with its bright Afro-Latin-Brazilian sound, Chevere is out and well received, charged with enthusiasm of a group of women happy to be. 9:30 pm, \$3.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1920: The first multi-racial strike in Hawaii begins with 6,000 Japanese and 2700 Filipino sugar plantation workers walking off, the growers spent \$12 million to break the strike after six months.

SUN 20 Concert for Cambodian Relief, chamber music concert with the Schubert Octet and Brahms Quintet.

sponsored by the East Bay Women for Peace, 8 pm, \$5, at the Unitarian Fellowship, Cedar and Bonita, Berk. for advance tickets call 849-3020 or 845-5006.

Traditional Bluegrass, presented by Laurie Lewis and the Grant Street String Band in concert, 2 pm, \$1 to \$4 sliding scale, call 548-2687 for more info, Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College, Berk. w/CH

1973: 100,000 demonstrate in Washington, DC at Nixon's second inauguration, demanding that Vietnam Peace Agreement be signed.

MON 21 Blues Monday with Mississippi Johnny Waters and the Blues Survivors.

9 pm, \$2.50, at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

TUE 22 Learning Disabilities workshop, sponsored by Bananas Child Care Service.

led by Vivian Hirshen, 7:30 pm, free, call 658-6046 for childcare in advance, at 6501 Telegraph Ave. Oak.

"With Babies and Banners," the story of women's transformation into defiant strike supporters, their passionate struggle and their ultimate exhilarating victory, with "Union Maids," a rare inspiring film about three magnificent women, one of the best films on labor history, 8:30 pm, \$2, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1932: 500 tenants in the Bronx, NY win a battle with police to prevent evictions, a common struggle during the Great Depression.

WED 23 "Way To Dusty Death," a film about asbestos and its crippling effects on workers.

as part of the "Here's to your Health" film series on environmental health hazards, 4 pm, co-sponsored by the Conservation and Resource Studies Dept, 145 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berk, free.

Benefit for AIM, the American Indian Movement will host a talent show, people are invited to bring their acts, speakers from AIM will speak on the Movement and the struggle in the 1980's, 8:30 pm, \$2, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1936: 100 Black veterans march on the Birmingham, Alabama State Courthouse demanding the right to vote.

THU 24 The "Network" Meeting, Bay Area Nutrition Action brings together groups and individuals interested in exploring and taking action on political issues affecting human nutrition and the food supply.

7:30 pm, free, La Peña Community Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Gary Lapow, from Brooklyn and Soolyman Rogie from Sierra Leone, West Africa, songs, stories and some exquisite guitar playing from two continents. 8:30 pm, \$2.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

1920: The US Labor Dept rules that membership in the Communist Party is grounds for deportation.

1848: Sutter's Mill, California, Gold discovery begins the Gold Rush and leads to the slaughter of entire Indian peoples by gold seekers.

FRI 25 Festival de la Nueva Cancion Latin-Americana, a concert of the New Latin American Song, born out of the resistance movements to become Cultural Resistance.

8:30 pm, \$2.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

SAT 26 Writing for the Left, this practical, one day workshop will cover basic skills for movement activists whose work includes writing: how to clarify and organize ideas, how to structure articles, brief statements and speeches, the use of style and the art of critical feedback.

12 to 5 pm, \$10 or sliding scale be arranged, La Peña Community Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Asian American Feminism, sponsored by Radical Women, Asian American feminists Nellie Wong, Merle Woo and Mitsuye Yamada will be the guest speakers, a discussion will follow the presentation, call 824-1497 for more info or childcare, 8 pm, at the Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. SF.

Sukay, playing the traditional music of the Andes, 9 pm, \$4, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Bay Area Defense Committee for Battered Women, see Jan. 12 listing.

Gwen Avery In Concert, a benefit for ZANU, sponsored by the South Africa Anti-Mercenary Coalition, 8 pm, \$3-\$8 sliding scale, San Francisco's Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. SF, childcare available. w/CH

SUN 27 "El Salvador: Its Forbidden History," an account of the history of the class struggles in El Salvador since colonial times to the present.

a benefit for the Solidarity Block with the Struggles of the Salvadorean People, a question and answer period plus music, 8 pm, \$2, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Lalo and Jazz To Go! combine vocals, percussion, and Latin jazz, original compositions with Lallo at piano and vocals, accompanied by Susan Salisbury on sax and flute, Sue Colson on electric bass and Lin Hall on drums, 2 pm, \$1 to \$4 sliding scale, call 548-2687 for more info, Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College, Berk. w/CH

1973: Vietnam Peace Treaty signed, largely as result of struggle of Vietnamese workers and peasants, and international condemnation of US aggression, culminating in final withdrawal of US forces.

MON 28 Welfare Advocacy, a joint forum by the Berkeley Free Clinic and Berkeley Welfare Rights on the nature of the Welfare System, and how advocates can assist poor and minority clients in obtaining their rights within the system.

7:30 pm, free, La Peña Community Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Blues Monday, with the Mel Brown Band featuring Monica Dupont, 9 pm, \$2.50, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

TUE 29 Emotional and Psychological Workshop, Social Worker Betty Cohen discusses these problems during child development.

sponsored by Bananas Child Care Service, 7:30 pm, free, call 658-6046 for childcare in advance, at 6501 Telegraph Ave. Oak.

"Las Ollas Populares," a documentary of the "popular pots" needed to feed jobless farmworkers, along with "The Traitors," trade union democracy and rank-and-file organizing are the themes of this explosive feature film produced clandestinely in Argentina, 8:30 pm, \$2, La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. w/CH

Images of Men, an evening of films and a slide show by and about men. Leonard Kurtz's *Changing Men*, a film on the men's movement is a work in progress that will also be screened. A rich kiloyle's slide show *Growing Up Male* and a new film on men and work will also be shown, 7:30 pm, \$2 donation requested, East Bay Men's Center, 2700 Banc

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governmental housing agencies have stopped even taking applications for housing slots because there are no available units. Despite the desperate situation, the federal government is severely cutting its housing programs. The proposed 1981 budget calls for funding for 185,000 publicly assisted units, down from 517,000 in 1976.

Urban "Removal"?

Gentrification. A massive problem in San Francisco is now spreading to the East Bay. More affluent individuals and real estate speculators are buying up the cheaper, deteriorating, inner city housing. These neighborhoods which have housed low income, ethnic, working class families are upgraded, the cost of the housing soars and the lower income residents are evicted from their homes. The lower income residents see their friends and neighbors leave, see the corner stores give way to boutiques, more expensive restaurants and other enterprises that serve the more affluent newcomers. The trend is often aggravated by city officials engaged in "urban renewal," "redevelopment" and other projects, who are anxious to increase property values and attract wealthier residents to the city to increase city revenues. BART, for example, actually destroyed hundreds of lower-income East Bay homes, while making living in traditionally poorer sections of the area—such as south Berkeley, downtown Oakland, northwest and east Oakland—a more attractive prospect for professionals commuting to San Francisco's financial district.

Speculation, Discrimination

Conversions of apartments to condominiums. Simply by changing the name of a unit from "apartment" to "condominium" the speculator may double or triple the price of the building through selling each unit separately while the banks reap the benefits of increased mortgages. The result has been a virtual epidemic of condo conversions in the Bay Area and throughout the country. The Adam's Point neighborhood of Oakland, for example, saw a full one-quarter of its apartment units converted before the recent, temporary moratorium on conversions in the city. These conversions not only force the eviction of low and moderate income tenants but also permanently remove the units from the rental housing supply, thus worsening the already critically short supply of decent, affordable housing.

Discrimination in housing. On the law books, discrimination is outlawed on the basis of race, religious beliefs, marital status, sex and national origin. But with minimal publication and enforcement of these laws, access to housing is still the prerogative of the landlord, or, in the case of home-busting, the real estate agent.



And in most of California, even the paper right to access is denied to families with children. Since renting to children is considered by many landlords to be less profitable, children are banned from upwards of 50% of all California housing. One Oakland study found, not surprisingly, that single mothers are the worst hit, and non-whites are harder hit than whites.

Tenants Get Organized:

Faced with these and other housing problems, tenants have been organizing on an unprecedented level throughout the state. Ironically, Proposition 13 was a catalyst for tenant organizing. It was quickly learned that landlords' promises of shared property-tax savings were empty, and the result was outrage on the part of many tenants. Before June 1978, tenant organizations' efforts were mostly limited to San Francisco and Berkeley. But in the wake of Proposition 13, organizations working for rent relief launched campaigns in 17 Bay Area communities, and new tenants organizations have emerged in Oakland, Hayward, Emeryville, San Mateo, Marin, Mountain View, Burlingame, San Jose, Santa Clara and Walnut Creek. Berkeley and San Francisco were successful in pushing through mild rent controls. On a statewide level, grassroots efforts

have translated into a few victories, as tenants now have increased protections from retaliatory evictions and landlords who refuse to make needed repairs. The new retaliatory eviction law, among other things protects tenants who join or form a tenants union. The repair and deduct law allows a tenant to use up to one month's rent, twice a year, to make needed repairs when the landlord has refused to make these repairs after tenant requests.

Focusing on local actions: a rent rebate law, Measure I, sponsored by Berkeley Citizens Action, was passed in November 1978. The one-year measure returned 80% of the Proposition 13 tax-savings to tenants, and limited rent increases for 1979. The Oakland Tenants Union, a membership organization, has been active in organizing building unions to press for better conditions, lower rents, and more tenant control over the housing. On the legislative front, the Oakland Citizens for Decent & Affordable Housing, a coalition of housing activists, labor and community organizations, is launching an initiative campaign for rent and eviction controls which they hope to qualify for the November 1980 ballot.

The OTU and OCDAH, along with other outraged Oakland residents, were involved in forcing passage of a moratorium

on condominium conversions in the city.

The Housing Rights for Children Project, as well as the OTU, OCDAH and 30 other organizations, have joined the Oakland Fair Housing for Children Coalition in an effort to ban discrimination against children in Oakland.

January 29, the coalition will be pressing city council to enact a "Fair Housing for Children" law similar to those enacted in San Francisco and Berkeley.

In response to tenant victories in the Bay Area and throughout the state, landlords, realtors, and mortgage bankers have filed petitions for an initiative attacking the victories. Calling themselves "Californians for Fair Rents," the real estate interests are pushing what they call the "Fair Rent Control Standards" initiative as a state-wide law. Ironically, the landlords gathered signatures for the measure by peddling it as "rent control," while in fact, if enacted, the law would gut every current rent law on the California books, and make future effective rent regulation impossible.

Tenant Organizing and Counseling:

- California Housing Action and Information Network (CHAIN) 4228 Telegraph, Oakland, 653-4613 For information about the Landlords Initiative or tenant organizations in your area.
 - Berkeley Tenants Union (BTU) 2022 Blake St, Berkeley, 843-6601 see calendar for schedule of activities.
 - Oakland Tenants Union (OTU) 4228 Telegraph Oakland, 653-4613
 - ECHO—Hayward and South Alameda County 770 "A" St, rm 310, Hayward, 538-ECHO
- Public Housing:**
- Berkeley Public Housing Tenants Association c/o Berkeley Public Housing Law Project 2001-A Emerson, Berkeley, 548-0875
- Legislative/Rent Control:**
- Oakland Citizens for Decent, Affordable Housing (OCDAH) c/o Jodi Murphy, 1419 Broadway, 465-4882 or OTU, 653-4613
 - Hayward Citizens for Rent Relief c/o Westminster Hills Church, 27287 Patrick Ave, Hayward, 782-2050
- Fair Housing/Discrimination:**
- OCCUR, 1419 Broadway, Oakland, 465-4882
 - Housing Rights for Children Project, 6202 Telegraph, Oakland, 658-8766
 - Oakland Fair Housing for Children Coalition c/o Caroline Albert, 1419 Broadway, Oakland, 465-4882

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EAST BAY

Community Calendar

of POLITICAL & CULTURAL EVENTS

FREE!
JANUARY

Housing: People or Profits?

The woman on the phone wants to know what can be done for her 75-year-old neighbor, Mrs. Johnson. A new landlord bought her apartment home of twelve years and plans to "renovate" and "upgrade" the building. For Mrs. Johnson, the words amount to a \$100/month rent increase which will force her out.

This scene is being played out with increasing frequency throughout the Bay Area, the state and across the country. The "housing crisis" is becoming a matter of survival for more and more tenants as housing costs increase, the supply is extremely limited, and the conditions and quality of housing deteriorates. Not surprisingly, the hardest hit are those who are already the most economically oppressed. Seniors on fixed incomes dread the day that the rent increase will mean more rent payment than income; single women with children see "NO KIDS ALLOWED" signs wherever they househunt; poorer families are displaced by housing prices skyrocketing beyond affordability to anyone but young, well-paid, and most often white, professionals.

The reasons for the critical situation in housing are not so complex: our shelter, an essential need, is treated as a commodity. It is bought and sold, its costs and conditions are dictated by the needs of profit instead of the needs of people. In the last several years, because of increasing bank interest rates and land and materials costs, the construction of new housing, especially lower cost housing, has not been nearly as profitable a real estate venture as speculating in existing housing or building luxury homes.

But while some bank accounts are overflowing with earnings from the housing crisis, tenants face a virtual cornucopia of problems and abuses.



Fewer Houses, Higher Rents

• A lack of affordable housing. With virtually no low- or even middle-income private housing construction in the East Bay or throughout California, the lack of housing is critical. In Oakland, only about 1% of the city's 88,000 rental units are available at any time. A vacancy rate of less than 5% is taken to be a housing shortage by the federal government and most state and local agencies.

• Rents outpacing incomes. Fewer and fewer people can afford food, clothing and health care after paying the rent. In Oakland, 85% of low and moderate income households are spending more than one-quarter of their incomes for rent. It is estimated that 180,000 Oakland residents—mostly seniors, black or latino, and women with children—are in need of housing assistance. 10,000 households are on the waiting list for public assisted housing. But in Oakland, as in many cities, the

(continued next page)

Our goal is to publicize the political & cultural struggles for radical social change in our area.

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