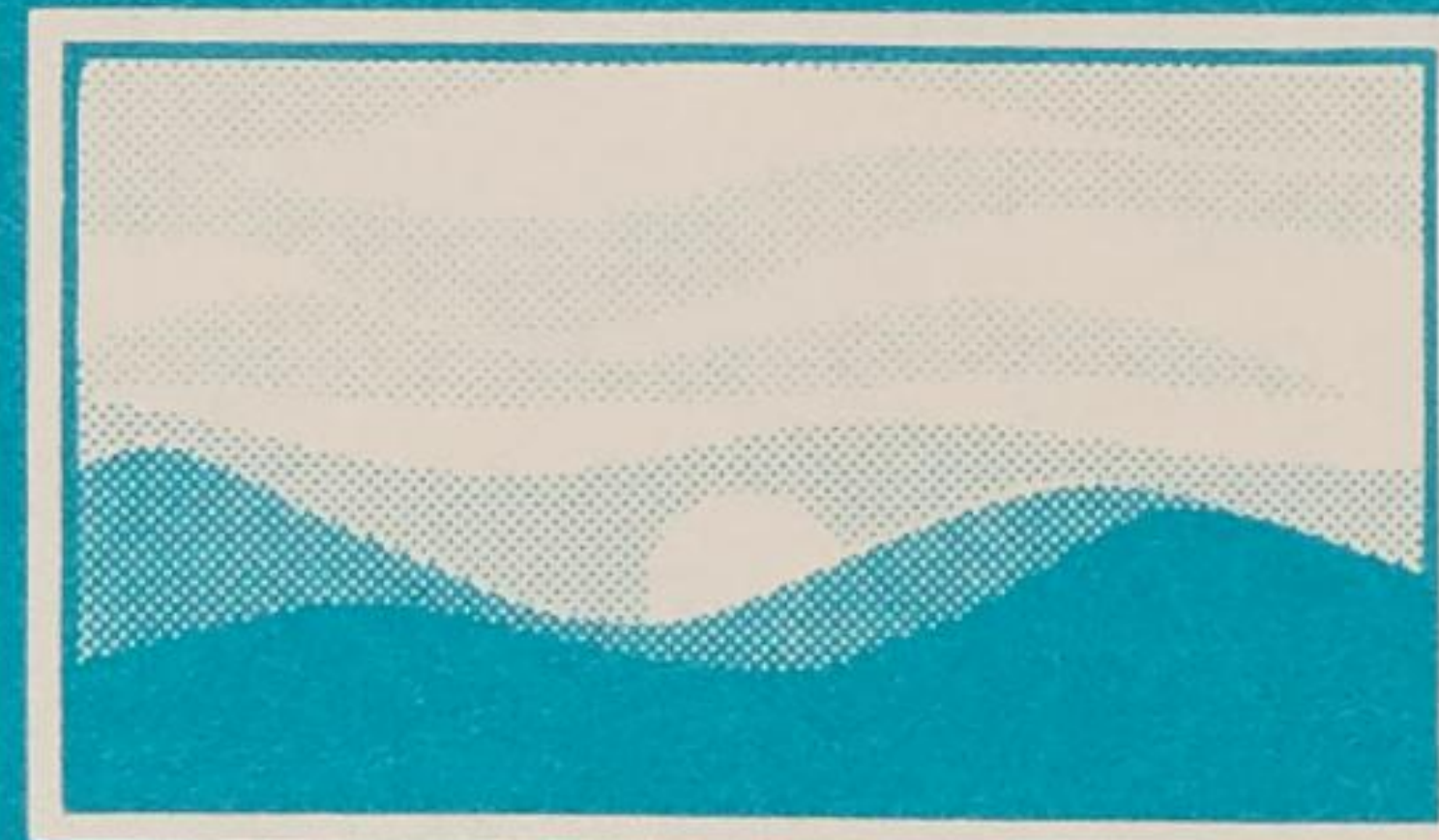


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Highlander Reports

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HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

Summer 1989

HUBERT AND JANE SAPP: "MOVIN' ON"



Hubert and Jane Sapp
bid farewell to Highlander Campus.

After nearly seven years of valued service here Hubert Sapp, Highlander's Director, and Jane Sapp, Cultural Program Director, have decided to move on to new work.

Hubert and Jane will be moving their family to New England where they will be full time faculty members at the School of Human Services at Springfield, Massachusetts. The school is an innovative adult education program with strong links with the immigrant Latino black and rural working class communities in the region.

Hubert and Jane came to Highlander from Alabama in 1982. They brought new ideas, energy, vision and leadership to our work. They will be missed by staff, board and friends. They will continue to work with Highlander as resource persons and advisors.

At its regularly scheduled meeting in May, the Highlander Board of Directors expressed its deep appreciation for the work that Hubert and Jane have done at Highlander (see resolution.) "Without question," said Board Chair Betty Jean Hall, "Hubert is leaving Highlander a stronger institution than the one he assumed leadership of in August 1982."

The Board also unanimously accepted the recommendation of the staff that John Gaventa, who has served on the staff for the past 13 years, be named as Acting Director of Highlander. He will be assisted by a management team which has been recommended by staff and approved by the Board.

A Search Committee has been established by the Board for a new director. Applications and information are available from Highlander. The deadline for applications is July 15, and the Board hopes to fill the position in the fall. Please pass the word to anyone you think might be a good candidate.

THANK YOU HUBERT AND JANE!

BHOPAL VICTIMS' SOLIDARITY TOUR VISITS HIGHLANDER

In February of this year, the Union Carbide Corporation, the Indian government, and the Indian Supreme Court arranged a settlement of \$470 million. This was compensation for the world's largest industrial disaster, Bhopal, India, where more than 4,000 people were killed and over 200,000 others were affected by the release of poison gas from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in 1984.

Survivors of the Bhopal disaster are protesting this settlement, calling it a "sell-out". A tour of victims was organized to speak in the United States to let people know about the on-going tragedy in Bhopal and the strong feelings of dismay regarding this settlement.

The tour made a stop in May at the Highlander Center, and people were invited to come talk to the delegation both at Highlander and at a symposium co-sponsored by the University of Tennessee Sociology Department.

The victims, speaking through a translator, let people know that the tragedy continues. People continue to die and to suffer health effects from exposure to the gas, and access to health care has been greatly lacking. Many people are unable to work at jobs they had before because of disabilities associated with the gas. While this issue goes through courts, there has been no interim relief for victims.

People all over India are mobilizing to put pressure on the Indian Supreme Court. Currently, they have been able to get the Court to put a hold on the settlement, and hope to pressure for a different result when the Court reconvenes in July. Bhopal victims continue to seek interim relief, compensation, rehabilitation, life-time health monitoring and full disclosure of liability for the gas leak.

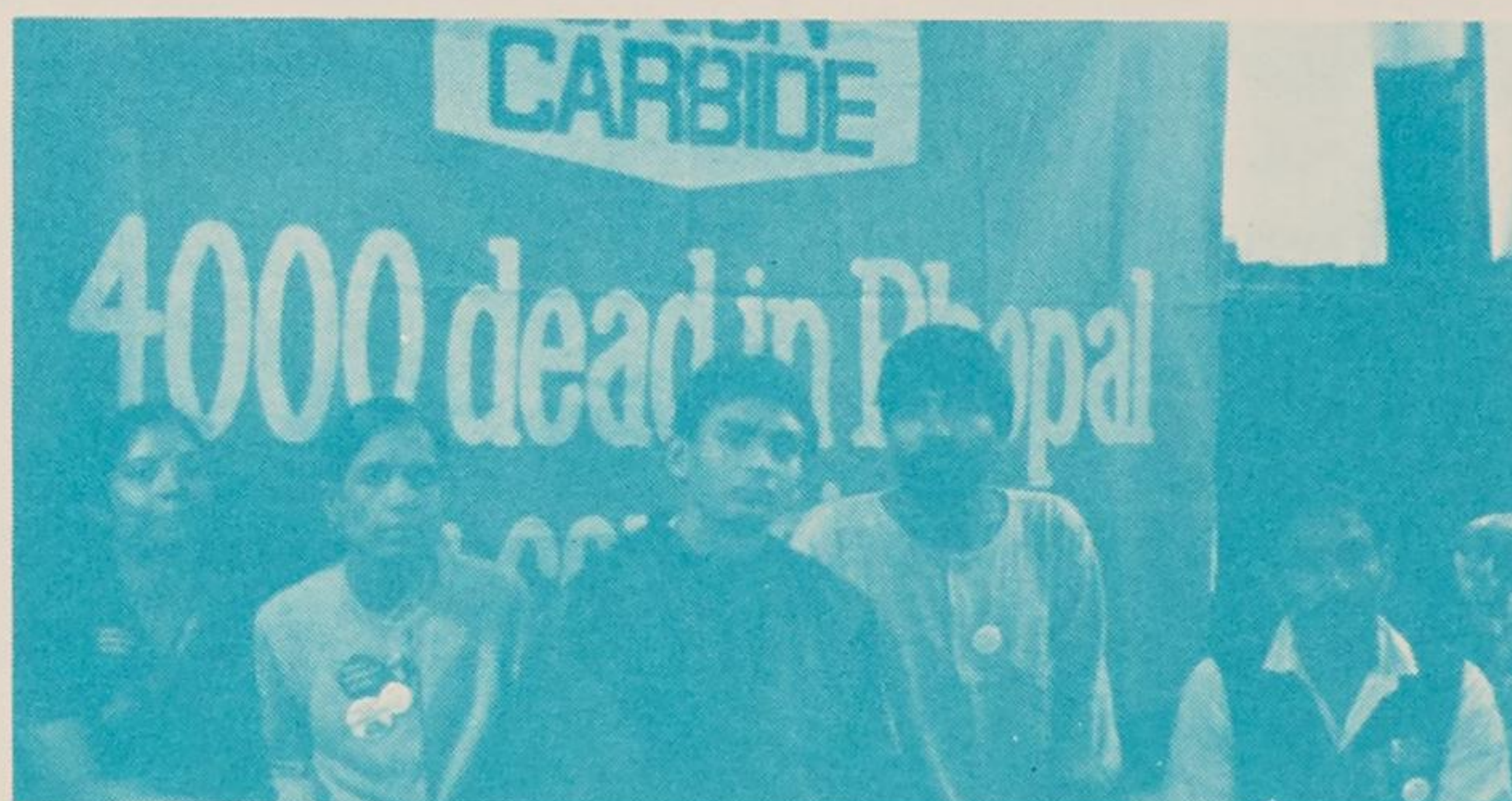
The Bhopal victims encourage people in the United States to speak out about this issue, to put pressure on Union Carbide and the Indian government, to help get justice in this situation and to prevent in the future similar events and suffering. Letters of support for the demands of the victims to overturn the unjust settlement and to provide immediate relief to the victims may be sent to:

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
Central Secretariat
South Block
New Delhi, India 110001

Chief Justice
Supreme Court of India
Bhagandas Road
New Delhi, India 110001

For more information about this issue, you can contact:

Bhopal Action Resource Center • Suite 9A, 777 United States Plaza
New York, NY 10017 • Phone: (212) 972-9877



Bhopal Victims visit East Tennessee.

CULTURAL PROGRAM CONTINUES ON

Under the leadership of Jane Sapp, Highlander's Cultural Program has completed several projects the past year. This included development of a booklet on Highlander's Cultural Program and a workshop on "Culture and Community Development". The booklet presents Highlander's approach and thinking about the role of culture in struggle and people's lives. Along with profiles of cultural initiatives in communities where we work, much of the narrative in the booklet was drawn from past and recent documents on Highlander's cultural work. Copies of the booklet are available through the Highlander office.

In March, we conducted a workshop at Highlander on Culture, Education and Community Development. This workshop brought together artists, cultural workers, educators, local leaders, community organizers, and some members of a college choir. The weekend gathering included participants from the Deep South and Appalachia as well as New York, Vermont, Washington (state), and Chicago. The diversity of the group was intentional for we wanted to make the point that culture is not a separate part of our lives and work, but instead, woven into most of our interactions and the things we do; and subsequently we are all cultural workers at some level.

It was an intense and remarkable workshop. There was so much cross-sharing because of the regional and cultural range. The role of culture in education was a critical one as the question of how people learn and different ways of knowing was discussed. Everyone present concluded that they were participating in cultural work and identified the intentionality of cultural work as defining the potential for societal transformation and individual empowerment.

Supporting the Cultural efforts of grassroots communities through "field work" also continues to keep Jane busy. Southeast Arkansas is a new community for the Cultural Program. Introduced by the Women's Project in Little Rock, we were invited to black communities in Marvel and Dermott, Arkansas. Both communities were concerned about the lack of interest by the predominantly white administrative and teaching staff in the education and development of black students. These communities were experiencing a high drop-out rate, entire classes being retained, including kindergartners. Parents and community residents began to feel that their children lacked self-esteem and a sense of the historical significance and accomplishments of their own people and community.

We were asked to do whatever we could to help the young of these communities to develop an awareness of their history and culture. Our approach was to begin with the young people's own cultural expressions as a way of getting them to think about their own lives and as a way to help them realize their own strengths, creativity, and self-worth. They did songwriting, role plays, raps, dances, sometimes emphasizing historical perspectives, sometimes emphasizing their own history, other times, and more importantly, emphasizing what they think and feel about their lives and their future.

RESOLUTION OF THE HIGHLANDER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In a past generation, activists from Alabama often came to Highlander to share and to learn. Then in the early 1980s, Alabama sent us an activist to listen and to lead. Hubert Sapp brought with him a quiet determination and a rare commitment to collective decision-making. This skilled educator agreed to move to a different part of the South, bringing along his lively family and his patient manner.

His leap to this mountaintop in Tennessee was not an easy one. Could someone raised beside the Savannah River be transplanted to the Smokies? Could someone educated at Harvard College in the North reconnect with grassroots in the South? Could a youthful administrator still in his 30s find happiness with an institution that was fast approaching 50 years of age? Could someone married to one of the finest musicians in the region "sing out for justice" in his own voice as well? Again and again, Hubert showed us that the answer was, "Yes!"

Financially, he has raised money impressively, stretched it amazingly, and spent it wisely. In a decade of scarce money, funding cutbacks, and stock market drops, Hubert Sapp has not only kept Highlander afloat, but he has also built up and protected an invaluable endowment that will be here long after any of us. Administratively, he has improved the Center's management and bookkeeping procedures, strengthened and supported an independent and dedicated staff, and renewed and improved our aging physical plant. In more ways than we can count, he leaves Highlander a stronger and healthier place than when he arrived.

For our friends and neighbors, near and far, the Reagan-Bush Era has been a time of pain and disappointment. For the Highlander Center, thanks to Hubert, the decade of the 1980s has brought rededication, growth, and rewarding involvement with a new generation of strong Southerners seeking fundamental change. We are all deeply indebted to Hubert for the generous and imaginative ways in which he has devoted himself to Highlander during his years here.

But most of all, we are grateful for the durable friendship of this kind and committed individual. While watching Robert and Edward grow bigger and stronger under the loving care of Hubert and Jane, we too have grown during these years by working with the Sapps toward common goals.

You have joined with others to put a new roof over our heads and a stronger foundation beneath us. And more than you can realize -- certainly more than we have said to you out loud -- you have opened wide some important doors and windows here at Highlander, bringing in fresh air, new people, and valuable energy. No friend could do more. From our hearts we say: Congratulations on a job well done, Thank You for Your Love and Dedication, and Godspeed.

The Highlander campus is available for groups to hold meetings, retreats, training sessions and workshops. An in-depth library including a video and audio collection provides visitors with excellent resources in areas such as civil rights, labor, Appalachia, popular education and culture. Reservations through the office should be made now to arrange for late Summer and Fall scheduling. The changing of seasons is a beautiful event in East Tennessee, colors are bright and evenings are crisp.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL/ECONOMIC INTERN PROGRAM (EEP)

Intern communities in the EEP program are preparing for the trip to their second workshop. This workshop will be held at Harrogate, TN, and will include visits with Yellow Creek Concerned Citizens group members who will talk about their ten year fight to clean-up Yellow Creek. The EEP program is intended to help groups conduct economic research in their own communities for use in their issue.

In the meantime, the groups have been busy in their communities. In this newsletter, we will tell you more about the group in Minden, WV. This group, Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County, (CCSFC), has been working for five years for relief from PCB contamination. PCB's are toxic chemicals, poly-chlorinated biphenyls, used in electrical transformers.

The PCB contamination originated from the Schaffer Company, which worked on electrical transformers at a building at the head of the narrow valley where the communities of Minden and Rock Lick lie. PCB's were dumped in a pit in the floodplain of Arbuckle Creek. Shortly before people found out about the dangerous PCB's, Arbuckle Creek, below the Schaffer Company, was dredged and the oil distributed elsewhere, spreading the contamination even further.

As a result of publicity and citizen pressure, EPA spent several million dollars on a "clean-up". But the clean-up only dealt with part of the problem in Minden.

A health survey done in Minden several summers ago indicated health problems that could be a result of the PCB's. Members of CCFSC have continued to apply pressure for further studies for health and the extent of the contamination. They have used the media extensively to put pressure on politicians and to let others know about the situation.

Members have decided that for many Minden residents, the best way to resolve this issue is to relocate the community. The contamination is so widespread that either a total clean-up to the satisfaction of residents must be done or the community relocated.

Now the CCFSC is working for relocation of those who wish to move, compensation for those who choose to stay, and a complete health study. The EEP project involves a survey of the community to see who would want to move, and what skills people have that could be used in the relocation process. Another part of the project is to research ways to determine what the cost to the community has been, in terms of health problems, decrease in property values, loss of any economic development opportunities, in order to put on pressure for relocation.

Recently, CCFSC has had several successful events including a visit by Senator Jay Rockefeller and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They were taken to the Schaffer site to see barrels of unidentified substances sitting in several feet of water in a hole. The EPA has yet to release the name of whatever was found in the barrels, but has placed the material in environmentally safe containers and is going to take it away.

The CCFSC has gotten a commitment for further health surveys from the Center for Disease Control and a commitment from EPA for more environmental testing around Minden. On June 3, CCSFC hosted a People's hearing, and residents of Minden and Rock Lick spoke to a panel composed of visitors from other communities and organizations. CCSFC also will be hosting several interns from the Virginia Student Environmental Health Project to do some additional work on health effects.

The hope for CCFSC is that the organizing and media activity, along with the research project, will generate enough pressure for a buy-out and relocation. Another hope is that the community can be relocated together, and that skills people have in Minden can be used during the relocation.

Best wishes to the CCFSC as they continue their long fight.



"Unidentified barrels from the Schaffer Company
in Minden, West Virginia, Community."

REPORT FOR THE FRONT LINES: Grassroots Leaders Pool Their Knowledge at the STP Schools

We've just completed the fifth in our series of STP Schools for grassroots leaders working on environmental issues. To date we've drawn participants from about half the states, from Idaho to Florida to Vermont, Oklahoma and New Mexico. We've had miners, mothers, health workers, auto-workers, senior citizens, teachers, union members, business people; people from the mountains and the big cities and from Native American communities. We've talked about strip mines and chemical dumps, auto plants and nuke plants and waste incinerators. We shared what's happened to our communities and how we've learned to fight back. Some of the insights that have emerged from these discussions are:

* Many times the press, the regulatory agencies, lawyers, universities, the churches and the medical profession collude with the poison producing industries. The people in these institutions and professions often have a direct monetary interest in protecting their jobs or the prospect of a job. Also their livelihoods depend on the public's acceptance of their role as "experts".

"A group in Kenova, West Virginia -- it's near Ashland chemical refinery -- these folks have stuff falling out of their air with a pH of about 12. It's kind of like lye, just dropping out of the air and everything. The EPA swore for years, Well, this was a natural phenomena, or This comes from nowhere, the plant had nothing to do with it. Of course the plant was utilizing the theoretically state of the art West German pollution control technology. This is what happened: after six years of this the EPA realized that they were wrong within their agency, launched a big internal investigation, called in the FBI. And it's been going on for years now. Nothing's changed. It looked like something was going to happen, but the white stuff's still floating down out of the air, you know, eating the paint off the cars, and the skin off your body, if you let it get on you."

"Here's a doctor who radiated people on purpose for his testing results and things like that, they named this radiation facility after this jerk!"

"As I walked into the room a guy about Kenny's size in a nice three piece suit come up and introduces himself and says, 'Hi!, I'm Bob Merritt, here's my card, if you have any questions ask me.' He's the PR guy for Valkon. He's also the son of the editor of the Eagle Beacon. And I said 'O'."

HIGHLANDER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS 1989-90

In simplest terms, Highlander brings people together to learn from each other. By sharing experiences, people realize that they are not alone. Working together we can develop the resources for collective action to confront problems caused by injustice (by connecting communities and groups to change structures and to build a genuine economic democracy). Through our Internship Programs, Highlander creates bridges for these interconnections, while simultaneously supporting the work being conducted in each community. Currently three of Highlander's programs utilize community internships as a process to promote community empowerment and development.

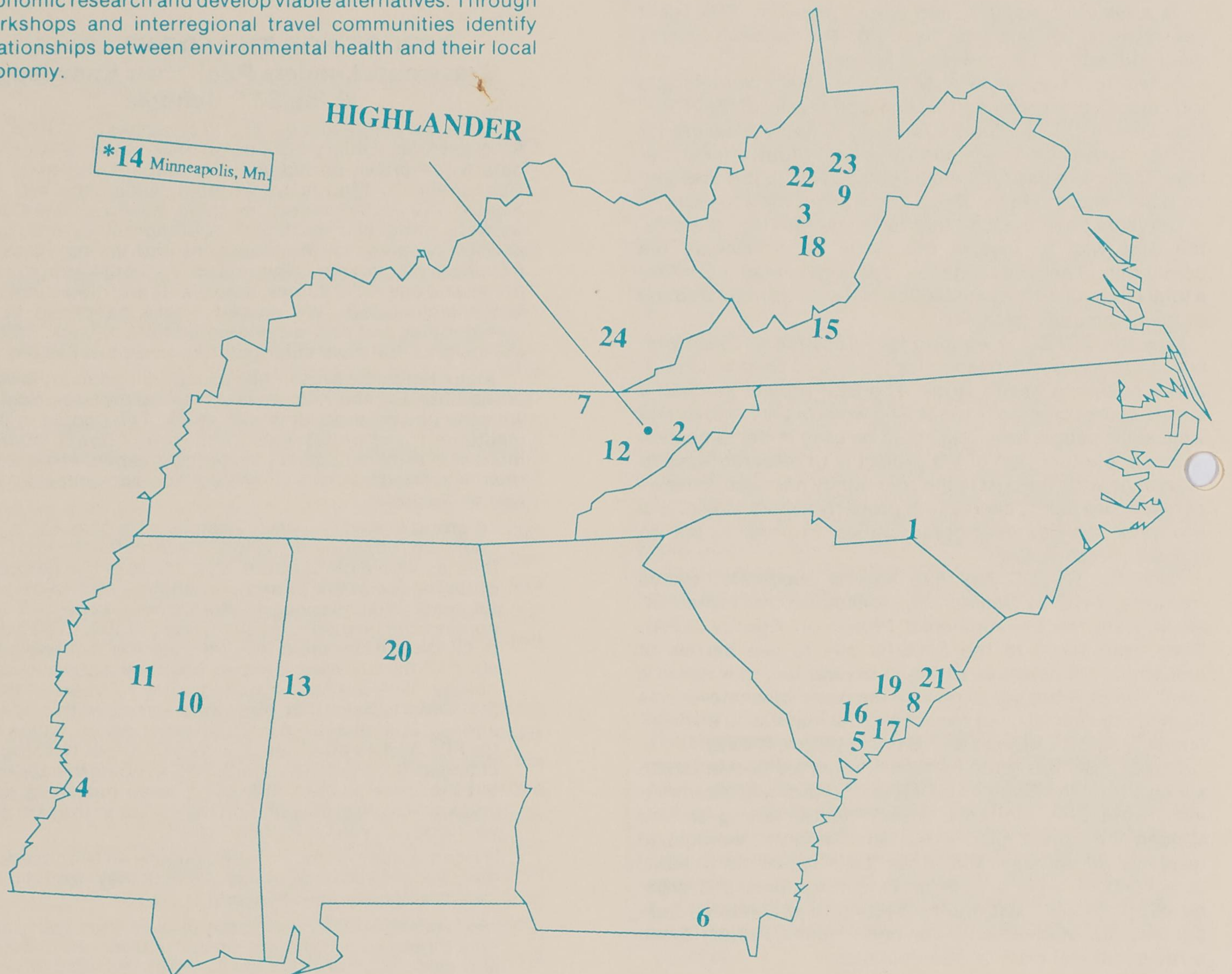
Youth Leadership Program provides workshops and follow-along field work for 15-19 year old youth from Appalachia, Native American and black communities — assisting them to deal with their own problems be they teen pregnancy, drug abuse or jobs.

Southern Appalachian Leadership Training (S.A.L.T.) works with emerging community leaders, most of whom are intimidated by mainstream institutions. These persons are provided with small stipends, workshops and training opportunities and technical assistance to work on problems which they and their communities have identified. This process is designed to further empower them as local resource persons.

Environmental/Economic Intern Program (EEP) works with communities who are confronted by the issues of "economic blackmail". The program assists groups to conduct their own economic research and develop viable alternatives. Through workshops and interregional travel communities identify relationships between environmental health and their local economy.

EEP INTERNS

- Baretta Hayes, Beth Price**, Center for Community Action,
1 Lumberton, NC - fighting plans for a GSX hazardous waste treatment facility in Robeson County.
- Americans for a Clean Environment**, Hartford, TN -
2 working for clean-up of the Pigeon River from pollution created by the Champion Paper Company in Canton, NC.
- Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County**, Minden,
3 WV - working for relief for Minden residents from massive PCB contamination.



SUMMER YOUTH INTERNS

Neicy Stewart - is sponsored by the Mississippi Cultural Crossroads in Lorman, MS, and plans to conduct research, write and perform in a theater project.

Faye Grant and **Tammi Frazier** - are sponsored by S.T.A.R. (Southern Teens Acting Responsible) in Hardeeville, SC, and plan to work in conjunction with a Big Brothers and Big Sisters Project along with working in Project Learn, a youth tutoring project.

Lee Barnes - is sponsored by Herring Memorial Methodist Church in Tifton, GA, and plans to work in a garden project to support a community food program.

Denise Marlett - is sponsored by Appalachian Women Empowerment in Newcomb, TN, and will work on an alternative food bank and the formation of a runaway/women's abuse center.

Angie Grant and **Glenda McFadden** - are sponsored by the Sea Island Youth project in Hollywood, SC, and will work on tutoring pre-kindergarten - 8th grade students and organizing the Sea Island Youth choir.

Greg White and **Lisa White** - are sponsored by Genoa Christian Center in Genoa, WV, and will work on after school tutorial work with young children.

Solomon Hinton - is sponsored by Brickfire in Starkville, MS, and will work on a community theater and video production.

Michael Brown - is sponsored by R.O.C.C. (Rural Organizing and Cultural Center) in Lexington, MS, and will work on a youth newsletter and theater group.

Amira Kaneez - is sponsored by Carpet Bag Theater in Knoxville, TN, and will work on the development of a community arts festival.

Ronnie King - is sponsored by Rural Membership Association in Aliceville, AL, and will work on an oil painting demonstration project for kids.

John Watkins - is sponsored by Nayo Watkins in Minneapolis, MN. He will work to develop African-American studies in public school systems.

Michael Waller - is sponsored by Ivanhoe Civic League in Ivanhoe, VA, and will work on designing and building props for a community theater.

Adda K. Davis - is a retired teacher/counselor. She has worked with the local 4-H group; Council of Southern Mountains; started a grassroots theater, the Mountaineer Players; Governor's summer youth program and currently she is president of the Sandy River District Action Corp. and serving on the McDowell County Economic Development Authority. She will be working on developing organizing skills to set up small grassroots groups to work on economic development and theater projects in Paynesville, West Virginia.

Beatrice Davis - is employed in a day care center. She works in her local church; started a concerned citizens organization; started a tutorial program in her local community; conducted a youth workshop working on identifying ways to get parents involved. She will be working on developing day care and youth programs in Adam Run, South Carolina.

Edward Denkins - is currently unemployed while recovering from an operation. He has been involved in numerous community projects: "Chicago Freedom Rider" in 1987; worked with voter registration drives in his local community; Black Belt Arts and Cultural Center (BBACC); Alabama New South Coalition; Campaign for a New South and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He will be exploring ways to develop youth leadership skills through social experiences in Selma, Alabama.

Redell Dixon - is self-employed as a cosmetologist. She has worked with handicapped and drug rehabilitation groups through her church. Currently she is teaching a Bible study group with adults and elderly persons to improve reading skills. She will be working on developing an adult education project in Meggett, South Carolina.

Catherine Groom - is employed at a day shelter house as an outreach worker. She has been active in the local AIDS Network; a board member of the Covenant House; Adult Service Network Coordinating Council. Her project work will focus on setting up a shelter for homeless pregnant women in Charleston, West Virginia.

Kathy Jackson - is employed part-time in housekeeping. She has been involved with the renovation efforts at Lincoln High School; a leader in the Federal and State Summer Youth Program; member of Eco Theater Summer Youth Project; member of Hinton's Eco Theater Company; Playwright and workshop director level I, II, and IV. Currently Kathy is involved with the Lincoln Center renovation; Eco Theater Playwright and Directors Council and her church. She will be working with youth 10-13 years of age to connect their cultural and historical roots using theater as a method, in Hinton, West Virginia.

Leslie Reed - is an unemployed mother of two. Leslie is active with workers of Rural Kentucky, Inc. She has worked with the Kentucky Welfare Reform Coalition; Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition and Job Training program. She will be working on developing a better understanding of economic situations which impact on Boonesville, Kentucky.

SALT FELLOWS

Gail Blackshear - works as a media specialist assistant at Hardeeville Elementary School. She has been and/or is currently involved with the following organizations: Citizens Organized for Public Service (C.O.P.S.); Taxpayers Advisory and Support Coalition (T.A.S.C.); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.); Action and Readiness Caucus. Gail will target her learning plan and actions to focus on affordable public housing in Hardeeville, South Carolina.

Louise Cokley - is a volunteer community worker. She is a member of Taxpayers Advocacy and Support Coalition (T.A.S.C.); Citizens Organized for Public Service (C.O.P.S.); the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.); and the Family Planning Advisory Council for South Carolina and the local Chapter. Louise will be working on ways to provide affordable and better health care service to Hardeeville, South Carolina.

HIGHLANDER'S YOUTH INTERNSHIP

What is the nature of youth activism today? Many former youth activists say it is in the closet, while many youth say it's alive but diverse; therefore, giving the appearance of being non-existent. Grassroots leaders in the region are placing greater emphasis on developing young people as a resource for the local community. Highlander's Youth Internship program is a component of youth "capacity building" to promote the development of youthful resources for local communities in the region.

"A special thanks to Highlander for giving me the opportunity to do an internship. It has helped me alot. I have learned alot about myself and my talents." This is an example of some of the comments made by 1989 intern Michael Brown of Lexington, Mississippi. Over the thirteen week internship, Michael developed and edited along with assisting a youth newsletter, and he also wrote, directed and performed in a play re-enacting the transitional period between slavery and freedom. The play, "Welcome to Whites Plantation", was performed by youth from the Lexington Community.

Starting new initiatives is nothing new for Michael Brown, several years ago he started the Youth Garden Project which occurs annually involving 50 or more young people from age 4 and up. Michael wrote an essay paper on the history of Lexington, which was awarded first place in a local contest. Michael, now 16 years old, is involved in his local community in a productive way.

The "capacity building" of Michael is founded on a solid ROCC (Rural Organizing and Cultural Center). ROCC, the grassroots organization through which Michael's ideas have been nourished and validated, is an example of a grassroots organization utilizing the resources of the community youth.

Thousands of young people exist within the region that could be more resourceful to their local communities; however, the links have yet to be connected. Through Highlander's Youth Internship program and our partnership with local grassroots organization youth capacity building is taking hold. Fourteen other interns are currently involved in project work. If you see one in your community -- give them encouragement.



Michael Brown's play "Welcome to Whites Plantation."

continued from page 3

"EPA did not stop your dump, Marty. You did."

* The press carries the special responsibility for reassuring people that any problems are exceptional, that mistakes -- as in "human error" -- can be cleaned up, and that people who challenge the official wisdom are silly. They legitimize the loaded language of industry and engineering: "sanitary landfills", "independent university study", and so forth.

The myth of Progress, in quotation marks, Science has the answer, all those manifestations of the myth of progress, that somehow we're all going to be better off

* The polluters' direct weapon is jobs blackmail: if you don't like our toxics, we'll just close the factory and start up someplace else. Poor and rural communities and the Third World are the most vulnerable.

They're so hungry for jobs that they really don't look at the impact of the jobs they're getting. They just really want to see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil. If somebody raises an issue it's Shut up, you'll ruin it for everybody and they won't come in.

* The big corporations depend on greedy local agents to penetrate the community. They try to use the local power structure to legitimize, protect, and enforce the pollution.

* The polluters employ economic, legal, and physical intimidation with equal facility. Citizens who challenge the polluters are often threatened and sometimes shot at.

People always knew what was going on but they could never catch the guy. So finally they did catch him dumping in the stream. He got a slap on the wrist. Any time he would get caught he would get out of things. Anybody who would cross him would either suffer physical intimidation -- their mailboxes getting blown off with a shotgun, or getting robbed, or firecrackers in the middle of the night, things like that -- anyway, he did get a permit from the state to dump septic [fill?] on Christmas trees to fertilize them. Anyway there's all these tankers coming in and out of there. He sold his business to BFI so we have BFI operating out of there.

* The polluters exploit divisions within the community. They play factory workers off against the rest of the community. They use racism and sexism to cripple community leadership. These divisions are based on cultural as well as economic differences, and they require special efforts to overcome.

The people in the workplace are getting the double-barrelled effect of this. Not only are they working with these chemicals, breathing the fumes, and being subjected to all this stuff, when they come home, they're still getting it, because they live in the community. I mean, just because he works in the mill doesn't mean he's OK, well by God he's safe just because he works in that mill, he ain't gonna get sick when he comes home! There's no separation. There is no separation!

"I wanted to say about that plant, interestingly enough, we received that plant after our neighbors in the lower half, which were progressive liberal whites, fought and got it out of their area. They put it in ours. But there was no overlapping. There was no OK, we don't want it anywhere, let's discuss how to keep it out of everybody's, you know, let's do it right.

One of the county Commissioners told someone . . . that she was a very nice woman but her time would be more productively spent if she would stay home and learn to bake better biscuits.

One thing they take away from us, beside our health and our lives, is our communities.

We also talked about ways we can help each other to be more effective in the long term struggle to protect the land, our kids, and our lives. But, we won't tell you about it. We're going to show you! Watch for sophisticated, determined action in communities all across the country!

What if you were to give the community the right to, in quotation marks, "Just Say No --?"

CAMPUS ACTIVITY

This Spring the campus was bustling with activity as Highlander friends took advantage of the beautiful weather to attend workshops or arrange for quiet visits in the library. The mixture of rainfall and sunshine also produced our largest hay crop to date. College and university groups continue to visit the campus. Knoxville College, Principia College, IL, National Audubon Society, University of Tennessee School of Social Work and Carson Newman all held meetings or workshops with Highlander staff. Other organizations which held workshops on the Highlander campus during the past 3 months include: National Federation of Local Cable Programers, Eastern Kentucky Teachers Network, Knoxville Community Action Committee, and World Council of Churches Urban Rural Mission.

Visitors were also abundant, only some of which include: four women from South Africa who spent 3 days on campus sponsored by the Visitor Program Service of Meridian House International, Patrick Breslin from the Inter American Foundation, K.F.T.C. members Sam Dotson and his wife, Katherine Peet who works in New Zealand with the W.E.A., and Beth Sauerhauf from a Boston based Literacy Program.

The campus provides a valuable resource for people to share experiences and learn from each other. As international visitors find the pathway to New Market it becomes increasingly evident that global perspectives are required when one begins to investigate and take action upon local concerns. By networking across regional and international lines, grassroots communities develop a clearer understanding of their own local issues.



"Myles visits with Highlander guests from South Africa."

AN UPDATE WITH MYLES

"... and what is he doing nowadays? ... is Myles still alive?, is he still raising a ruckus?" People continue to present these questions either in person, by phone or letter -- so it's proper to present an update on what Myles Horton, Highlander's 84 year old founding father is up to. Now retired and residing on the Highlander campus, Myles still spends a good deal of time traveling -- during the past several years he's been to Nicaragua, Brazil, and Peru, along with his travels criss-crossing the United States. The major project filling his time since 1986 has been the writing of his autobiography which is to be released in March of 1990 by Doubleday. Appropriately titled, "The Long Haul", the text was edited by long-time friends Herb and Judy Kohl. This project allows Myles to tell his own story, using his words to get into print how and what he has learned. "This frees me up ... now I can turn my attention to the present and not think so much about the past." In addition, Myles also has a book being edited which he and Paulo Freire "talked through" during Paulo's visit to Highlander in December 1987.

The future is full of plans and ideas. "What I'm interested in is what I've been interested in since the 60s, and that is relating Highlander to the Third World situation ... not trying to tell people what to do in their own country, but sharing what we've learned here with them and learning from them." Myles promotes increased involvement between grassroots leaders through exchanges and networking between Third World countries and Appalachia. "... I see Appalachia and the Deep South as being part of the Third World countries therefore having more in common with Third World countries than we have with other parts of the United States." Highlander can draw upon their increasing number of contacts in countries such as India, South Africa, Nicaragua, and Chile to create these exchange opportunities. "I hope to spend more of my time helping out with this kind of program ... it ties in with my belief in popular adult education and the possibility of a truly democratic society ...".

A second interest is in working with groups in this country who are involved in "residential based" popular education efforts. This form of education, as implemented here at Highlander, has unique characteristics which are critically needed in today's world. Additionally, Myles continues to occasionally provide help with Highlander's workshops and meet with old and new friends alike.

While most succumb to father time -- Myles continues to be in good health, walking up and down Highlander's hills as weather and arthritic knees permit. He quotes a Russian novelist in regards to his health, "Have the strength of your own imperfections." "That's what I've got to do -- learn to live with them ... I've got to be a little more selective on my trips and work more with people when they are here." Notwithstanding these comments, Myles will be with Paulo Freire in February and also visiting Montana in July to work with a group of Kellogg Fellows and visit several Native American schools.

Recently honored by the Tennessee A.C.L.U. with a "Life Time Achievement Award", Myles was described as a "serious, radical democratic/republican." His past work is now found in numerous publications and held in the memories of countless people. Yet, "The Long Haul" is not concluded. Myles keeps his schedule full and continues thinking of the future.

PLANT CLOSINGS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Over 100 people from around Tennessee gathered in Chattanooga on June 2-3, 1989, for a conference on "Responding to Plant closings in Tennessee." The Conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Industrial Renewal Project, a joint effort of Highlander, the Georgia-Tennessee-Alabama Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and the Commission on Religion in Appalachia.

The conference brought together workers, legislators, representatives of state agencies, community organizations, churches, academics and members of the public to address the problem of plant closings and lay-offs in the state; to learn from the experiences of other states, and to discuss the broader implications of this problem for economic and community development policies in Tennessee.

As in other parts of the country, workers and communities in Tennessee and the South have been deeply affected in recent years by loss of jobs, and movement of industries. Research for the conference identified over 125 incidences of plant closings and lay-offs affecting at least 36,000 workers since 1984.

With the success of the conference, TIRN will continue to conduct work on problems of economic justice and economic development as they affect workers and community groups. A report of the conference will be prepared. Write us for a copy!

THE SUPER-SAPP RAP

To Hubert and Jane

(To be accompanied by drums, hands, fingers, thumbs, spoons or whatever)

He's a real cool mother
With a lot of style
And it's heavy, man,
That he's been here a while;
He came from Eutah
Down in Alabam,
As a civil rights worker
He could jive and jam
--He's a natural-born leader
Who led us through
A million-dollar campaign
And a SALT lick, too,
He started youth workshops
With a lotta pizzazz
And battled the toxics
With a big beat jazz;
For whatever you sow
That's what you reap,
And he sows great programs
From EEP to STP;
He's a high-boned kicker,
He's a royal ace,
He's a fiscal farmer
With a funding base,
He's a Super-Sapp Rap,
He's a man that's great --
And this Big Boat Captain
Has a Baad First Mate!
She's a ship-shape cat,
She's the soul of this place
Who sings for Freedom
With Amazing Grace;
She's a wonderful teacher
And a helluva ham,
She's the star that fell on
Alabam,

She's a kitten on the keys,
She knocks 'em dead --
She brings them culture,
And she brings us bread!
So we want them to know
As they leave our ship
They've steered us straight,
It's been a great, great trip!
We can see the land
That we're headin' for
And it's clean and clear,
And it's got no war,
And it's got no missiles,
Or PCBs,
It's got lots of jobs
And lots of trees;
There the people speak
And the people rule,
And the big-money bosses
Get kicked out of school --
For it's a Highlander Law
In our struggle and strife
That we all got a right
To the Tree of Life,
So wherever they go
On the People's Map,
This Tree of Life
Has lots of Sapp!

Yeah!

Scott Bates

VITAL UMWA STRIKE

CONTINUING AGAINST PITTSTON

On April 5th in a major test of union strength, 1500 UMWA miners in southwest Virginia struck the Pittston Coal Company. Pittston is Virginia's largest coal producer, and is the #1 U.S. exporter of coal. Pittston is also the only major coal company that would not agree to a basic coal industry contract negotiated last year with the UMWA.

In February 1989, the Pittston/UMWA contract ran out, and Pittston cut off health benefits for 1500 retired or disabled miners and widows, and stopped paying into the pension fund for working miners. Despite a history of "no contract, no work", the UMWA continued negotiations with Pittston but could not reach an agreement, and so went on strike in April.

This strike is seen by many as a key fight for the UMWA. The UMWA feels that Pittston is clearly using tactics intended to break the union. The strikers, along with the community and the women's auxiliary which calls itself Daughters of Mother Jones, have been picketing the mines and practicing non-violent civil disobedience. Support is high in southwest Virginia for the strikers. Thousands have been arrested, and local high school students have walked out in support. The union is reaching out for community and religious support and has been active in the corporate campaign against Pittston.

Currently the union is under several injunctions against having more than 5 people congregate in a picket line and against stopping non-union workers going into the mines. The union was recently fined \$3 million for violating these injunctions and is facing enormous fines in the future. Strike leaders have been jailed and are on a hunger strike. (This can be contrasted with a \$47,000 fine Pittston received about 5 years ago when it was judged negligent in the deaths of 7 miners in a 1983 mine explosion).

The UMWA is looking for support. If you would like to be a part of the Citizens' Support Committee, or you would like more information or an update on what is happening, call (202) 842-7200 in Washington, DC or (703) 762-5537 in Virginia, or write: UMWA, 900 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Donations in support of the workers and their families may be made out and sent to: Justice for Pittston Miners, c/o UMWA, District 28, P.O. Box 28, Castlewood, VA 24224.

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