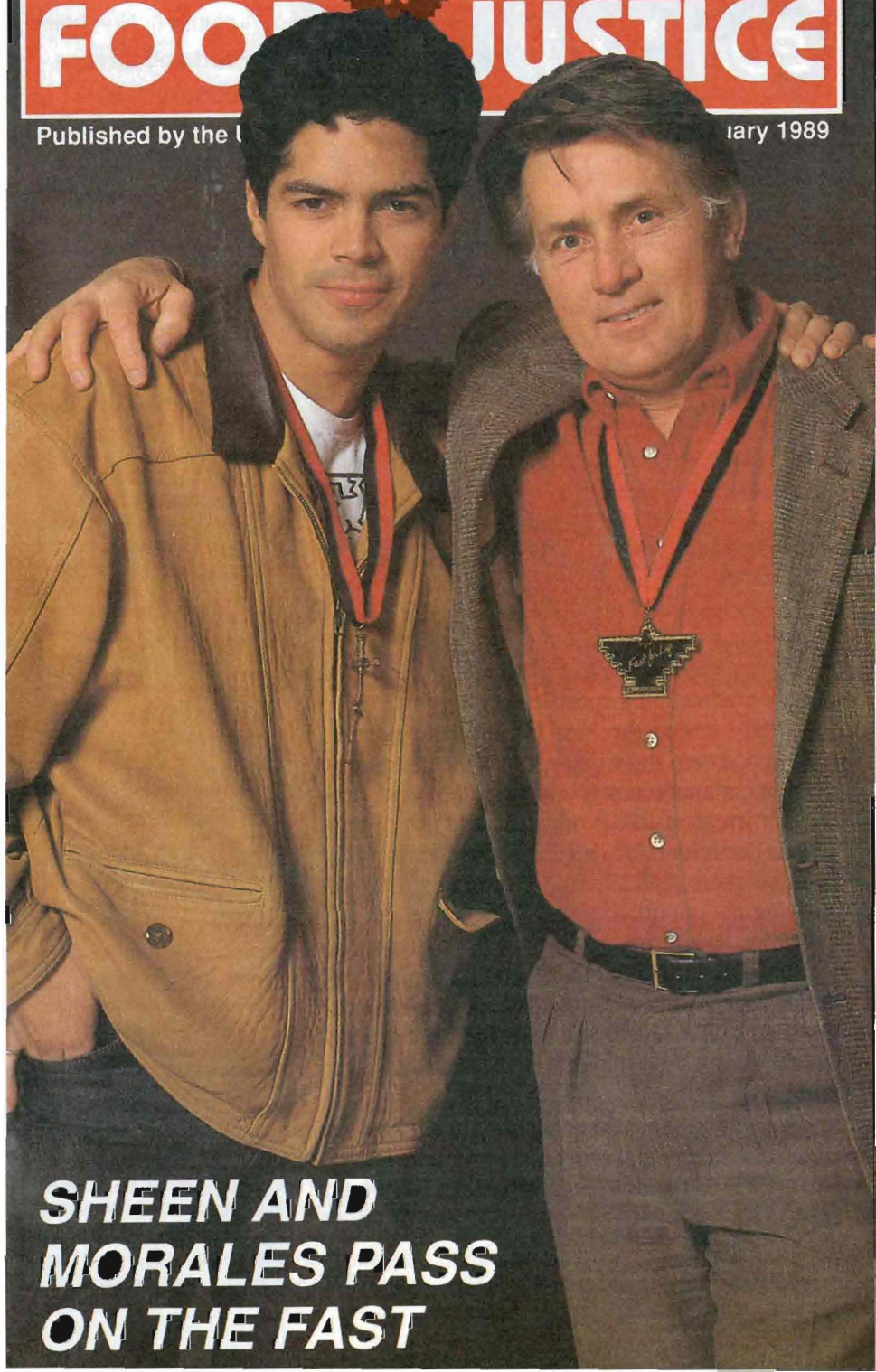


FOOD & JUSTICE

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**SHEEN AND
MORALES PASS
ON THE FAST**

EDITORIAL

FAST FOR LIFE

Fasting has always been an important part of our farm worker movement. We learned from Gandhi and other spiritual leaders before him the value of fasting for such personal purposes as preparation for a significant life event, atonement, and self-purification.

Christ, for example, underwent a 40-day fast in the desert to overcome temptation, to purify himself, to ready himself to embark upon his ministry to create a more just and loving world.

We also learned from Gandhi that the value of fasting could be extended beyond the personal to the social: that a person who fasted and suffered for a much-needed societal change broader than just his own purposes could elicit from others the desire to share that suffering and thereby participate in eradicating a specific social injustice.

When I ended the Fast for Life last August, many good men and women joined the fast against pesticide manufacturers and grape growers who, in their irresponsible production and use of dangerous pesticides, are causing so much misery for farm workers, endangering consumers, and destroying the environment.

Today, seven months later, it is heartening to see that the number of those "sharing the burden" of the fast continues to grow. We are humbled and gratified by the letters and calls we are receiving from thousands who have already fasted and many more who plan to do so in the future.

We encourage you to participate in our Fast for Life by inviting your family or a community group you are a member of to organize a fast. We would appreciate hearing from you and letting us know how it is going.

Thank you.

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National Executive Board:

Cesar E. Chavez
Dolores Huerta
David Martinez
Arturo Rodriguez
Arturo Mendoza
Oscar Mondragon
Roberto de la Cruz

Editor:

Cesar E. Chavez

Writers:

Fr. Ken Irrgang
Armando Cerda

Photographer:

Victor Aleman

Production Director:

Paul Chavez

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Just before Christmas, actor Esai Morales, one of the stars of "La Bamba," received the cross symbolizing his participation in the national Fast for Life from Father Luis Olivares during a ceremony in Queen of Angels Church in Los Angeles. Morales is shown here immediately after the ceremony as he explains to friends and supporters his desire to fast three days to "share the suffering" of farm workers who once again are engaged in a grape boycott to regain their contracts and obtain protection from deadly pesticides.



La Opinion

Fast for Life Still Multiplying

Last August 21, Cesar Chavez, with instinctive confidence in the fundamental goodness of the majority of people, declared in a statement issued at the end of his 36-day Fast for Life:

"Today I pass on the Fast for Life to hundreds of concerned men and women throughout North America and the world who have offered to share the suffering...it will multiply among thousands and then millions of caring people until every poisoned grape is off the supermarket shelves."

Chavez' confidence has not betrayed him. The Rev. Jesse Jackson took up the

fast on August 21 and set in motion a national chain of fasting shared in by the Rev. Joseph Lowery, actor Martin Sheen, and many more celebrities and prominent national leaders. Another national fasting chain was subsequently begun in Canada. Both are still continuing.

On December 23, Esai Morales ("La Bamba") announced his three-day fast in a ceremony at a Los Angeles church, and on February 1 in New York, the Fast for Life medallion was placed around the neck of Sandra Feldman, president of the United Federation of Teachers, to signal the start of her fast and that of 120 more



Joseph Sherman

President Sandra Feldman signs up officers and members of the executive board of New York City teachers' union to fast with her in January and February.

officers, executive board members, and delegates.

Feldman, whose union has 100,000 members teaching one million children in New York City, asked, in a letter to Kevin Gill and the New York City Board of Education, that they "stop the serving of table grapes in the schools of New York City."

Coast to Coast in '89

At the same time the national fast continued, hundreds of others were started and completed, and new ones kept sprouting up in hundreds of different places by groups of every kind and size.

California table grape growers, already reeling from the impact of the fast and boycott last year, have no reason to expect this year to bring them relief. In fact, some fasts are already in place to insure that the Fast for Life will go on throughout the entire year of 1989.

For example, the Westchester Rainbow Coalition in New York continued into January a fast they started on October 21. And more than 400 students at Aquinas High School in Rochester, New York, began a fast on Ash Wednesday (February 8) that will continue until

Easter, with an average of 10 students scheduled to fast each day. Also, Thomas Y. Hobart, president, and at least 180 of his colleagues in the New York State United Teachers are planning to "fast one day each for each day" of the approximately 180-day harvest in 1989.

President Joe McDermott and members of the Civil Service Employees Association in Albany, New York, are seeing to it that the entire year of 1989 is covered. At their convention in Lake Placid late last year, McDermott announced his intention of

fasting four days in early December and then 450 more delegates signed up to join him. They have scheduled the individual fasts to insure that one or more CSEA members will be fasting every day until the last day of 1989! "We can make a difference," McDermott said at the start of the fast. "We can get by without grapes as long as we have to, but the California grape growers cannot get along without consumers very long."

Other groups in the New York area were also seeing to it that the fast and boycott got off to a good start in 1989. On January 18, President Bettye Roberts and Executive Director Bob McEnroe of District Council 1707 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees launched a fast among their members. On February 28, Stanley Hill, executive director, and members of District Council 37 of the same union began theirs. Then Sonny Hall, president of the New York City Local 100 of the Transport Workers, and all 40 members of the executive board inaugurated a fast. And President Edward J. Cleary and the New York State AFL-CIO began a unique fast in which each of the organization's labor lobbyists adopts a state legislator



President Joe McDermott and 450 members of the civil service employees' union in Albany, New York, are conducting a fast that will last throughout 1989.

and both fast together for one to three days.

Two other groups headquartered in New York combined their fasts with the observance of the January 15 holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. During the January 15-16 weekend, 15 members of the national executive committee and staff of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a group started by King, fasted. And on January 15, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., noted civil rights activist and executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, and 30 commission and staff members fasted. "Fasting to support the farm workers' struggle for justice is a most fitting tribute to the life and work of Dr. King," Chavis said.

The first two months of 1989 also saw the kickoff of fasts in Washington, D.C. On January 21, 30 members of Local 25 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers

launched a month-long fast. On February 6, the National Association of Social Workers began a fast chain scheduled to continue for two months. And on the same day, President Tony Martinez and 50 members of Capital Branch 142 of the National Association of Letter Carriers initiated their fast.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Americans for Democratic Action continued a fast they began back in November when they hosted in Philadelphia the passing of the national fast from ex-boxer and actor Carlos Palomino to former comedian and activist Dick Gregory. Chairperson Dolly Rieder and more than 100 ADA officers, board members, and other mem-

bers each signed up to fast one day, which filled their fasting-chain calendar



Bettye Roberts, president, and Bob McEnroe, executive director, District Council 1707, AFSCME, launch the Fast for Life at delegates' meeting.

well into 1989. Other groups that began fasting chains about the same time in Philadelphia were Brother John Tulley and the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, the Catholic Worker, and



Sonny Hall, president of New York City Local 100 of the Transport Workers, begins a fast that all 40 members of the executive board are taking part in.

the Fox Chase Peace Reflection Center. And in Baltimore, 75 members of a boycott support group and returned Peace Corps volunteers fasted.

In the Midwest, in addition to national fast exchanges in Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo, and Milwaukee, several other fasts were carried out at the end of the year and the start of 1989. Students at Chicago's Mundelein College are conducting a fast that will last through March. Other fasts were organized by students at Northwestern and Bowling Green universities and by members of churches, labor unions, and other organizations in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Flint, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, and Grand Rapids.

In the New England states, 200 students at Brown University fasted last year when Rory Kennedy participated in the national fast. Later, Chicano students at all nine Ivy League schools took part in fasting chains. And in a particularly poignant fast in Portland, Maine, the mother of two children whose deaths were believed to result from a toxic waste dump undertook a fast.

In Texas, after national Fast for Life

exchanges in September and October, several fasts were started throughout the state by students at The Lake University and Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, the University of Houston in Houston, the University of Texas in Austin, Pan American University in Edinburg, and Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Elsewhere, churches and civic organizations organized fasting chains. In Dallas, several leaders of community organizations began a chain that lasted two months.

And in the farm workers' "home" state of California, a flood of fasts from San Francisco in the north to Los Angeles and southern communities in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys rang out the old year and rang in the new. In Coachella, Mayor Frank Duran and city council members joined grape workers in an extended fast. And taking a cue from the national executive board of Church Women United, whose 33 members fasted from November until Christmas Eve, the local CWU in Pomona Valley started a fasting chain on February 1 that was destined for a long life after 159 women, organized by Beatrice Price Russell, signed up to fast one or more days.



The Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.: Fasting for the farm worker cause "is a most fitting tribute to the life and work of Dr. King."



Doug Hostetter, executive secretary, and national executive committee members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation scheduled their two-day fast to coincide with the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the founder of FOR.

"Villains"

What all these hundreds of national and local fasts started in 1988 and continuing in 1989 translate to, of course, is millions of people engaged in the most telling fast of all — a massive fast from California table grapes.

And *that* translated to a sure sign the boycott is working: fighting between



Alfonso Sanchez: "People in the cities are fasting and sacrificing for us, and we have to keep fasting and sacrificing, too."



Soledad Quintero: "Whatever we do, fasting or boycotting or picketing, we have to be united in the struggle because that is our only hope for better conditions and a better future for our children."

supermarket owners and grape growers. Toward the end of the grape season last year, supermarket owners were badgering grape growers to put a stop to all this troublesome fasting and boycotting. Angered by their demands, Bruce Obbink, president of the California Table Commission, complained to the press, "What the retailers want me to do is make them [boycotters] go away, but when you're dealing with villains, that is not necessarily a simple matter." In a letter to supermarket owners, Obbink's frustration was also evident: "We will do

whatever we can to minimize it [the boycott], but we can't be held liable for making it go away." The boycott will go away, of course. Not exactly the way Obbink and California grape growers would like it to, but it will. The Fast for Life is multiplying among U.S. and Canadian "villains," as Chavez confidently said it would, and it will continue to until every poisoned grape is off the supermarket shelves for good...until growers sit down with workers and agree to stop using dangerous pesticides and give workers contracts.



Elias Stavrides

Kicking off the national fast in Canada in front of Knob Hill Farms, the largest supermarket chain in metropolitan Toronto, are Shirley G. E. Carr, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, and, at her left, Leo Gerard, director, District 6, United Steelworkers of America, and Sean O'Flynn, former secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour. Pictured at the left is David Martinez, UFW boycott director in Canada.

The Fast and Boycott in Canada

Last summer, a delegation of seven prominent Canadian labor leaders visited Cesar Chavez in Delano during his 36-day Fast for Life. Afterward, Canadians inaugurated a national chain of fasting "to share the suffering," as the Rev. Jesse Jackson put it on August 21 when he initiated a chain of fasting in the U.S.

Thirty prominent Canadian labor, religious, political, and community leaders committed themselves to participate in the national fast. Among those who have already joined celebrities Lou Diamond Phillips, Charlie Haid, and Susan Anspach in public exchanges of the fast symbol (a wooden cross or, sometimes, a Fast for Life medallion) and have completed three-day fasts are: Shirley G.E. Carr, president, Canadian Labour Congress, Ottawa; Sister Eleanor Holland, Sisters of Loretto, Toronto; Dan Heap, Member of Parliament, Spadina, and activist Alice Heap, Toronto; Ralph Ortlieb, United Food and Commercial Workers, Toronto; Leo Gerard, director, District 6, United Steelworkers of America, Ontario, his wife, Susan, and 17-year-old daughter, Kari-Ann; Bob Mac-

Kenzic, Member of Provincial Parliament, Hamilton; Brian Burch, United Church of Canada; Gary Wylie, president, District Labour Council, Cornwall; Doug Sword, president, Quinte Labour Council, Belleville; Sean O'Flynn, secretary-treasurer, Ontario Federation of Labour, Toronto; Homer Seguin, USWA staff coordinator, Sudbury; Roger Aubut, USWA staff representative, Sudbury; Sisters of St. Joseph, Morrow Park, Ontario; and John Martin, president, USWA Local 1005, Hamilton.

At the same time, Canadians, as they did in two previous boycotts, were also putting boycott pressure on local stores and supermarket chains. In British Columbia, the B.C. Federation of Labour, guided by boycott coordinators Astrid Davidson and Dave Wilson, carried out a massive leafleting campaign against supermarkets in the entire province. In the Vancouver area, 70 of the 100 supermarkets are now being leafleted, with grapes already removed from several stores and all city institutions. And in smaller cities, too, local unions have waged successful boycott campaigns. In Port Albernie, for example, boycotters

have so far gotten grapes removed from the school cafeterias, the hospital, and two of the city's four supermarkets.

Viva Videos!

Meanwhile, the extensive distribution of "The Wrath of Grapes" video continued. In the last two years, more than 15,000 copies have been issued to groups and individuals. Leading distributors were the United Steelworkers, the Canadian Auto Workers, and the B.C. Teachers' Federation, which sent out 1,800 copies to every secondary, junior high, and elementary school in the province. But the video champs were the Ontario region of the Canadian Labour Congress, led by Doug Tobin. He and his staff showed the video about 100 times at labor seminars, conferences, and schools to more than 9,000 rank-and-file trade union activists.

The B.C. Federation of Labour, besides distributing the video and getting it shown on many local cablevision programs, enlisted the help of actor Martin Sheen and produced three of their own 30-second spots for commercial television that were broadcast throughout the province and generated widespread awareness of the boycott.

Food Not Safe

When Auditor-General Ken Dye made his annual report to the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa this past December 13, he warned Canadians that both the domestic and imported food they eat is not safe: "We have concluded that inspection practices need to be strengthened...to provide reasonable assurance that human health and safety threats caused by chemical or bacterial hazards associated with food and agriculture products are identified, prevented, and removed."

Canadians were already one step ahead of Dye in at least one area. Having heeded the warning of their farm worker friends

south of the border, they had already identified California table grapes as poisonous and were well on their way to getting them removed. Canadian per-capita grape consumption dropped sharply from 4.98 pounds in 1986 to 4.33 in 1987 — a decrease of two-thirds of a pound per person in one year. The drop is expected to be even greater when figures for 1988 are released. Statistics also show that per-person grape consumption in Canada in the past decade in Canada has always been higher than in the U.S., but it has been lower since the start of the boycott.

Citing another market report, David Martinez, UFW boycott director in Canada, said that, from January to August of 1988, there was a 26% decrease in all table grape imports into Ontario, the largest Canadian market, compared to the same period in 1987.

As Auditor-General Dye made clear to the Canadian Parliament, chemical residues in imported and domestic agricultural products must be "identified, prevented and removed." Canadians are definitely doing that with one imported agricultural product: table grapes from California. They're sending them "right back where they started from." ▼



Conferring with actor Martin Sheen during the filming of boycott ads for commercial television in British Columbia are Ken Georgetti (right), president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, and Tom Fawkes, administrative assistant.

FARM WORKERS AND CONSUMERS

Farm Worker Pesticide Poisonings Up 41%!

Farm workers in California were the majority of the victims of a frightening jump in total pesticide-related poisonings in 1987, and, no surprise, among the most vulnerable were grape pickers. During 1987, there were 2,897 pesticide-related illnesses or injuries reported by doctors, 33% higher than in 1986 and the highest total ever since pesticide poisonings began being recorded annually in California 17 years ago.

The rise in farm worker poisonings was even higher — 41%. The highest number in agriculture occurred in Kern County, the heart of the California table-grape industry. Again, no surprise. Said Dr. Michael O'Malley, elaborating on the report issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture late last year, "When the grape harvest starts in Kern County, probably 50,000 workers are involved in one capacity or another."

"We all know why grape pickers are so vulnerable to pesticide poisonings and why there are so many birth defects and cancer cases among their children," said Dolores Huerta, first-vice president of the UFW and director of the grape boycott. "Grape workers come in direct contact with the sprayed vines and leaves, and that accounts for the high number poisoned every year — another of the many reasons to be boycotting grapes before any other fruit or vegetable."

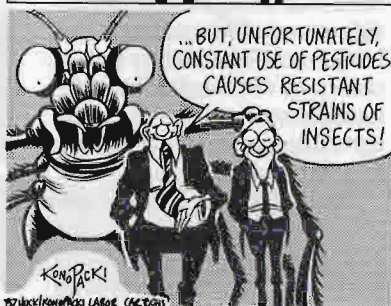
Ralph Lightstone, pesticide expert for the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, deplored the fact that the number of pesticide poisonings in California agriculture keeps rising. "This report means that the system has again failed to protect farm workers who work in the field producing the food we eat," he said. "In the 1980s, pesticide poisonings should have decreased. Instead, huge worker poisonings continue to increase,

and no one yet is even counting chronic, long-term disease such as sterility, birth defects and cancer."

Poor Records

The CDFA report may be even more alarming for information it doesn't contain — that is, the estimated thousands of pesticide poisonings never reported. Most doctors are still unable to diagnose pesticide poisonings accurately and consequently do not report them. Even worse, doctors most farm workers are sent to are "company" doctors who are not disposed to report anything that might put their own employers in an unfavorable position.

Doctors are practically never cited by grower-influenced county health departments for failing to report pesticide poisonings, and, when they are, they face a trifling \$250 fine — not exactly a discouraging word home on the rich California medical range.



More Pesticide Fears For Consumers

Consumers have more to fear from pesticide poisoning after another government report issued last October revealed that only about half the pesticides that may contaminate fruits and vegetables can be detected by federal tests. Just as alarming, officials of the Food and Drug Administration seemed relatively unconcerned about it.

"...there are extraordinary deficiencies in our ability to detect pesticide residues in our food."

The multi-residue tests used by the FDA can detect only 163 of the 316 pesticides registered with the Environmental Protection Agency for use on fruits and vegetables, according to the study done by the Office of Technology

Assessment, the bipartisan research arm of Congress. The OTA report, entitled "Pesticide Residues in Food — Technologies for Detection," also cited an earlier federal study that found routine FDA testing failed to detect 33 pesticides with moderate to high risks for such health problems as cancer and birth defects.

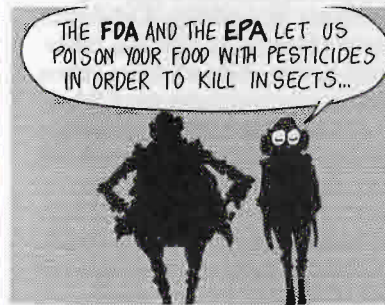
"It is obvious," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, "that there are extraordinary deficiencies in our ability to detect pesticide residues in food."

Besides the poor detection of pesticide residues, the report also said that, even though the technology exists to improve pesticide tests, the FDA has been slow to adopt more up-to-date methods. Meanwhile, new pesticides are being approved and registered for use even though the FDA has not developed new detection methods.

Official Indifference

"In contrast to the general public's uneasiness over pesticide residues in food," the OTA report said, "the federal agencies responsible for regulating foods do not have the same level of concern for the existing situation." A weak response from FDA confirmed the OTA accusation. Said Pasquale Lombardo, manager of the FDA pesticides program: "It's safe to say the FDA does not think pesticides in foods are the No. 1 threat. But we care about pesticides."

The FDA may not think pesticides are the No. 1 threat, but several polls conducted last year showed that the most consumers do. One of them, a nationwide survey conducted by the Food Marketing Institute in Washington, D.C., found that pesticide contamination of food is the number-one worry of 75% of the consumers consulted.





In 26 states, 46 different pesticides used in agriculture caused ground water contamination.

The Cost of Free Water

If "the best things in life are free" ever included safe drinking water, it doesn't anymore. Anyone who wants water to be safe these days better buy bottled water. Anyone who still expects drinking water to be free better be prepared to pay for it in doctor and hospital bills later. Unless quick action is taken, something the Environmental Protection Agency has never set any records for, safe and free drinking water is quickly going the way of the horse and buggy.

In mid-December, the EPA issued a grim interim report showing that ground water in at least 38 states is contaminated by 74 different chemicals. In 26 states, 46 different pesticides used in agriculture caused the contamination, and in 12 more states 28 other chemicals from unknown sources were blamed. And that's just the interim report. "Many agricultural areas have not been sampled and are not statistically represented," said Victor Kimm, EPA acting administrator in charge of pesticides.

The EPA report was no surprise to Diane Baxter, staff scientist of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," she said. "As more samples are taken, we are going to find more instances of contamination."

For almost 40 years, growers have used pesticides on their fields without a thought about the safety of the water. They, along with pesticide manufactur-

ers, simply assumed, without sufficient preliminary scientific research, that the pesticides would either bind to the soil or break down into harmless chemicals. But they don't.

The DBCP Lesson

One of the most tragic lessons to learn from, but one that appears to have had little lasting impact, is the story of what happened with the cancer-causing pesticide, Dibromochloropropane (DBCP). Starting in the 1950s, tons and tons of DBCP were dumped on California fields. Then, in 1977, after 90 men working at a chemical plant in Lathrop, California, were rendered sterile by DBCP, California banned its use, and two years later it was banned nation-wide by the EPA.

Now, 40 years after DBCP's initial use and 12 years after first being banned, it is still being found in drinking water. In fact, every year more and more DBCP-contaminated wells are being found because that carcinogenic pesticide is so persistent in soil and ground water.

The EPA's recent report didn't exactly elicit dramatic concern from pesticide manufacturers. John McCarthy, vice-president of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, said, "EPA's current sampling is the kind of information we will look to as to whether there may be a health issue."

Fantastic.

San Francisco Boycott Endorsement Infuriates Grape Growers

In the face of exaggerated economic threats from California grape growers, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on December 12 passed a resolution by a vote of 8-2 to support the UFW grape boycott of California table grapes.

The American Farm Bureau and seven other farm groups threatened to cancel conventions in the city if the resolution was adopted and warned that the city could lose nearly \$60 million in convention-related business. However, Supervisor Jim Gonzales, sponsor of the resolution, discovered that only one agricultural group had booked a convention in San Francisco in the next 12 years.

"The pesticide issues and the issue of justice in the fields are everybody's issues," said Gonzales. "For me, the boycott is a call for economic justice. And it is important that we eliminate from society, once and for all, those poisonous pesticides that are causing cancer."

The American Farm Bureau (AFB) cancelled its convention in San Francisco. Henry Voss, California Farm Bureau president, said that action would keep 8,000 people out of San Francisco for one week and would cause the city a loss of \$7 million.

However, San Francisco's budget analyst projected that the city would lose only one-tenth of 1 percent of the annual hotel tax revenues now received. In addition, the cancellation of grape purchases for city jails and hospitals would produce an estimated annual savings of \$4,000 to \$5,000.



Art Agnos (right), former city councilman and now mayor of San Francisco, and Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, pledged their support shortly after the UFW table grape boycott began.

Also, one group has already announced it would hold its convention in March 1990 because of the city's support of the boycott. The city's position "was a plus that enhanced our decision," said Jane Delgado, head of the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations. Delgado estimated that more than \$1 million would be spent by the 2,000 conventioners expected to attend.

Joining the AFB, the Kern and Fresno County Boards of Supervisors passed resolutions in January to boycott San Francisco. "Those boards are showing the world their blatant bias and indifference to the health of farm workers and consumers," said Dolores Huerta, first vice-president of the UFW. "These counties have the largest number of victims of pesticide abuse in the country."

When interviewed about the Kern and Fresno County resolutions, Mayor Art Agnos said that if residents were to follow such recommendations, they would almost have to stay home since the table grape boycott has been endorsed by over 30 major city councils, including Oakland, New York, Boston, Detroit, San Jose, West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Toronto and two state legislatures, Maryland and Massachusetts.

Boycott Supporters Write

The grape boycott has raised consumer concern and enlightened many to the dangers of pesticides. Many who care about their health and the rights of farm workers are making the boycott work through a variety of independent actions. Below are a few of the many people who have written to tell us about their boycott actions and to encourage us in our struggle.

When Barbara D. Stirton, Sonoma, California, was on a USAir flight from Burbank to San Francisco, she was taken aback when the flight attendants served her grapes for a snack. "I wrote a letter to USAir regarding the serving of grapes. I got a letter back from the company saying, 'Your comments regarding the grapes have been forwarded to our Dining and Cabin Services Manager for review and future consideration.'

"I thought you'd like to know that there are some not-so-little-old ladies out here protesting the use of life-threatening chemicals on our food crops — dangerous to farm workers — and that I support the grape boycott.

"Instead of buying grapes, I have a little grapevine of my own in my back yard and that's all I depend on. I never buy any."

...

Boycott actions in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by long-time supporter Jennie Downey, her husband Pat, and friends have resulted in increased boycott support in the city. "I ordered a packet of buttons and signature forms from the boycott office and am passing them out and getting people to support the boycott," she wrote the UFW. "I have spoken and shown the video ['The Wrath of Grapes'] at the Central American Resource Center, Lutheran Women's Group, Catholic churches and other groups and have gotten good support."

Along with a check she enclosed, Downey requested additional buttons to sell and literature to distribute at upcoming conventions. "We are also continuing our picketing at the Rainbow and other grocery stores here. And that's not all. I have talked to three people in the state legislature and we're going to go there and ask them to pass a resolution about pesticides."

Pat Downey, a faculty member of the



Jennie Downey

Minneapolis Community College, recently asked his local UWI to support the grape boycott. "No grapes were served for the Board of Directors meeting at Rutgers University," Jennie reported.

Jennie and Pat Downey have been staunch supporters of the UFW since 1968, when farm workers first started organizing in Minneapolis. "My husband and I went out to picket there [California] in the '70s. It was a pretty rough when security guards, Teamsters and police were beating up a lot of people. Once we stayed in a motel in Indio and they blew up part of it."

...

Sister Theresa Spinler has been instrumental in helping forge a strong base of support for the grape boycott with the Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica Priory in Duluth, Minnesota. "I just gave a talk and used 'The Wrath of Grapes' video at St. Mary's Medical Center," she wrote. "The administration was in complete agreement with the grape boycott — so grapes are no longer served at the hospital.

"We also have a college, St. Scholastica, that does not serve grapes, either. Your struggle for justice does not offer you much affirmation, I'm sure, but know that the Benedictine Sisters here in Duluth support you.

"I'm not only concerned with the pesticides in the grapes, but I'm concerned with the pesticides in general — the tremendous pollution that we have on our earth right now," she said. Sister Theresa said she hoped everyone would see the "The Wrath of Grapes" video, which is distributed free by the UFW. "I think that really helps touch people's hearts and makes them see the danger in all this. God bless you, and I pray for you daily."



Sr. Theresa Spinler

...

"We love grapes," wrote retired senior Robert Hall of Lakewood, Colorado, "but there has not been one grape consumed in our house for a year."



Robert B. Hall

Mr. Hall knows about the adverse effects suffered by farm workers who come in contact with pesticides. "We are outraged at the continued excessive use of dangerous pesticides by fat-cat growers. One also suspects that pesticide residues have a similar but less obvious effect, so far unknown and not yet well-investigated, on consumers of grapes.

"We hope that the growers will change their practices and that those who do will prosper in comparison with the greedy ones who persist in poisoning their workers and the consumers."

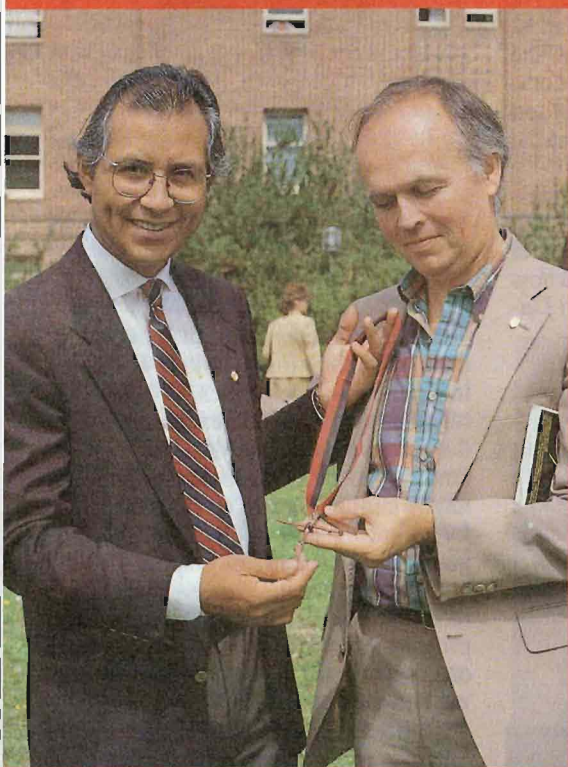
Hall said agricultural colleges should "increase research on natural biological methods of pest controls in place of the poisonous chemicals which are so hazardous to agri-workers as well as to those who consume the produce still tainted with chemical residues."

...

"I am a 17-year old high school student and have always loved grapes," wrote Jennifer Fuller of Raleigh, North Carolina. "But now I am aware of the horrors associated with them. I haven't eaten grapes since my father enlightened me on poisoned grapes. I wore a 'Boycott Grapes' shirt to school last week and opened a number of eyes. Don't anyone out there give up the fight against the pesticides. You're getting more and more reinforcement every day."

PASS ON THE FAST

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"Today I pass on the fast for life to hundreds of concerned men and women throughout North America and the world who have offered to share the suffering. They will help carry the burden by continuing the fast.

"The fast will go on in hundreds of distant places and it will multiply among thousands and then millions of caring people until every poisoned grape is off the supermarket shelves. And the fast will endure until the fields are safe for farm workers, the environment is preserved for future generations, and our food is once again a source of nourishment and life."

Cesar Chavez

Fernando Chavez passes the cross and Fast for Life to Michael Fischer, executive director of the Sierra Club.

I will fast for _____ days and invite my family, my organization, community leaders, and public officials to join this fast.

You may wish to contribute what you normally would have spent on food to FAST FOR LIFE, La Paz, CA 93570. Envelope enclosed.

For more information, call 1-800-27-CESAR.

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SAMUEL B TRICKEY
723 NW 19TH ST
GAINESVILLE FL

32603