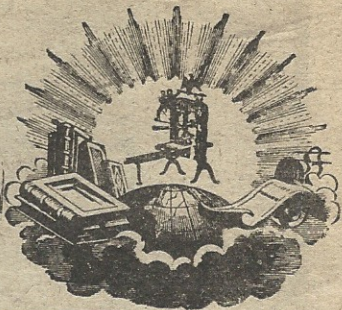




THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH. EDITION OF

# The Berkeley News



The only people with freedom of press  
are those who have their own.

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If both sides of a story are told completely  
truth will always win out.

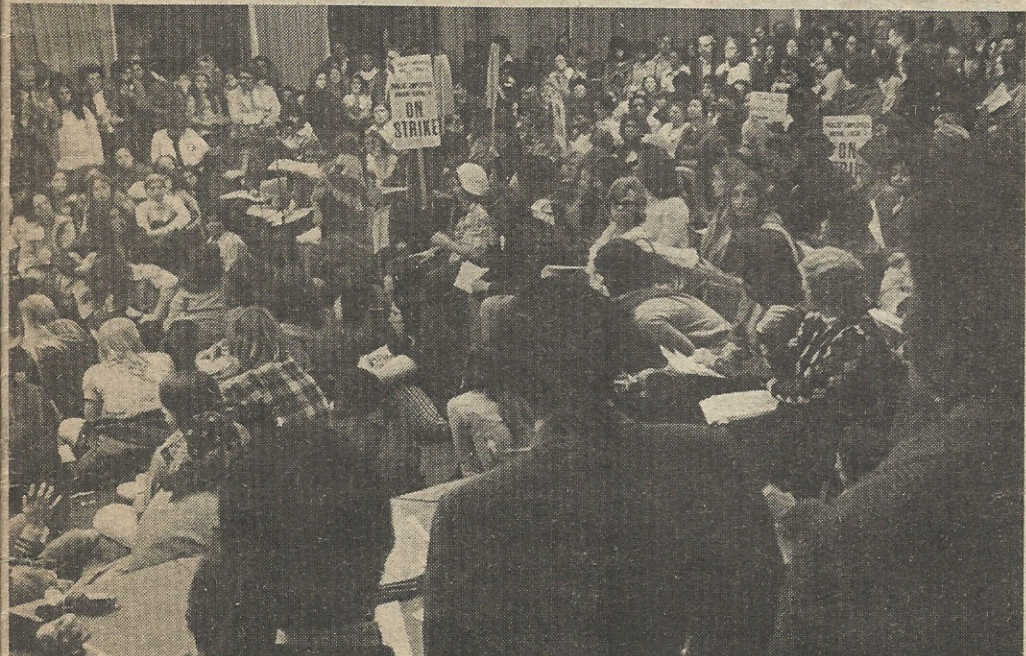


Photo By Tim Baker

Strikers confront School Board at Tuesday meeting

## Berkeley Schools' Teacher's Aides Out

By Elizabeth Dayton  
and  
Judith Hooper

Eighty-seven Berkeley teachers abandoned their classrooms Wednesday in support

of the strike by instructional aides launched Tuesday.

Sixty-six aides (out of 110) employed by the district continued to picket Wednesday after being told by Super-

intendent Laval S. Wilson at the Tuesday school board meeting that the strike, called by Public Employees Union Local No. 1, was illegal and that there was no money in the district budget for raises. A meeting was set for Wednesday evening for negotiations with the district.

Focus of the strike by the classroom aides, who are classified rather than certificated employees, is their demand for seven-and-a-half hours pay for the normal six-hour day. They complain they receive 80 percent of their full wages and insist they should be paid on the same basis as teachers, with preparation time considered in the salary.

Schools most affected Wednesday were Berkeley High, with 28 teacher absentees, and Whittier, with 21. Nearly half of the students at John Muir School did not show up for classes, but otherwise student attendance was slightly higher than Tuesday.

Schools reportedly functioned near-to-normally Tuesday, except at Malcolm X school, which lost half of its 690 students and 13 out of 25 teachers, and Whittier, which reported eight elementary and six pre-school teacher absentees out of a total of 36.

The aides are employed primarily in the elementary schools.

The teachers' organizations, including the Certificated Employees Council, the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, and the Berkeley Teachers' Association, are

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## UFW MARCH

## Rally On Gallo Turf

By Judith Hooper

Causes have a way of resurrecting themselves. Whether because of seasons or tides or benign planetary conjunctions, or just because, as a priest speaking in Modesto put it, "God is on the side of the oppressed," the United Farmworkers are once again capturing front-page headlines and activist hearts.

"Reports of our death have been greatly exaggerated," UFW leader Cesar Chavez told the massive "Boycott Gallo" rally in Modesto Saturday.

This sleepy Central Valley town of 85,000 seems an un-

likely place to attract between ten and fifteen thousand UFW supporters, 250 of whom made the week-long march from the Bay Area. They were joined by other footsoldiers for La Causa, converging on the E&J Gallo winery (the nation's largest) from Fresno and Davis.

Driving along Highway 99, a monotonous asphalt strip clogged with Winnebagos and Ford pick-ups, one is easily lulled into a stupor by the vast, flat seas of tomato seedlings and orchards, where the only sign of life or movement is a revolving sprinkler. But this is some of the richest agricultural land

in the world, the fruit and salad bowl of the nation. It is also the birthplace of the still-adolescent monster, Agribusiness, indigenous to California and Texas. (Where you don't see a house shaded by scrub oaks in the middle of a field you can guess the landowner is Teneco or Digiorgio or Southern Pacific.)

The towns look pretty much the same. But as you enter Modesto, you drive through a pale-green arch that says, "WATER-WEALTH-CONTENTMENT-HEALTH," which is one way of knowing that you're not in Merced or Delano.

The beige and pastel storefronts complacently line the streets. A W.T. Grant and a Bank of America blankly face a Mexican moviehouse where "La Historia de ..." is crumbling off the marquee. There is no sign of restlessness at the A&W, where the Mexican teenagers and the apple-cheeked children of small tomato farmers sip Jumbo Cokes and listen to country-and-western stations in their family pick-ups.

Imagine, then, a mile-long millipede, colorful (against the monochromatic Modesto landscape), creeping Across intersections, along the Southern Pacific tracks where forlorn freight-cars slumber.

There's the lady with the blue hair squinting through the tinted windows of her Cadillac, whining to the policeman, "Why can't we go? It's a green light." You wonder if she even saw the people, a whole human river waving banners and chanting "Viva la Huelga," flowing across her path.

A few hours later, in Graceada Park, as Joan Baez sang a lament for Juan de la Cruz, Farmworker-martyr shot by a sniper in 1973, I thought of the lady in the Cadillac and the clerk in Woolworths and the imperturbable storefronts of downtown Modesto. I thought of the owner of the machine-repair shop along 99, who kept an uneasy eye on the marchers lined up in front of his bathroom as though they were partly-tamed coyotes whose movements were alien and unpredictable.

Chavez told the crowd of Farmworkers and sympathizers that large corporations had brainwashed small and medium-sized growers

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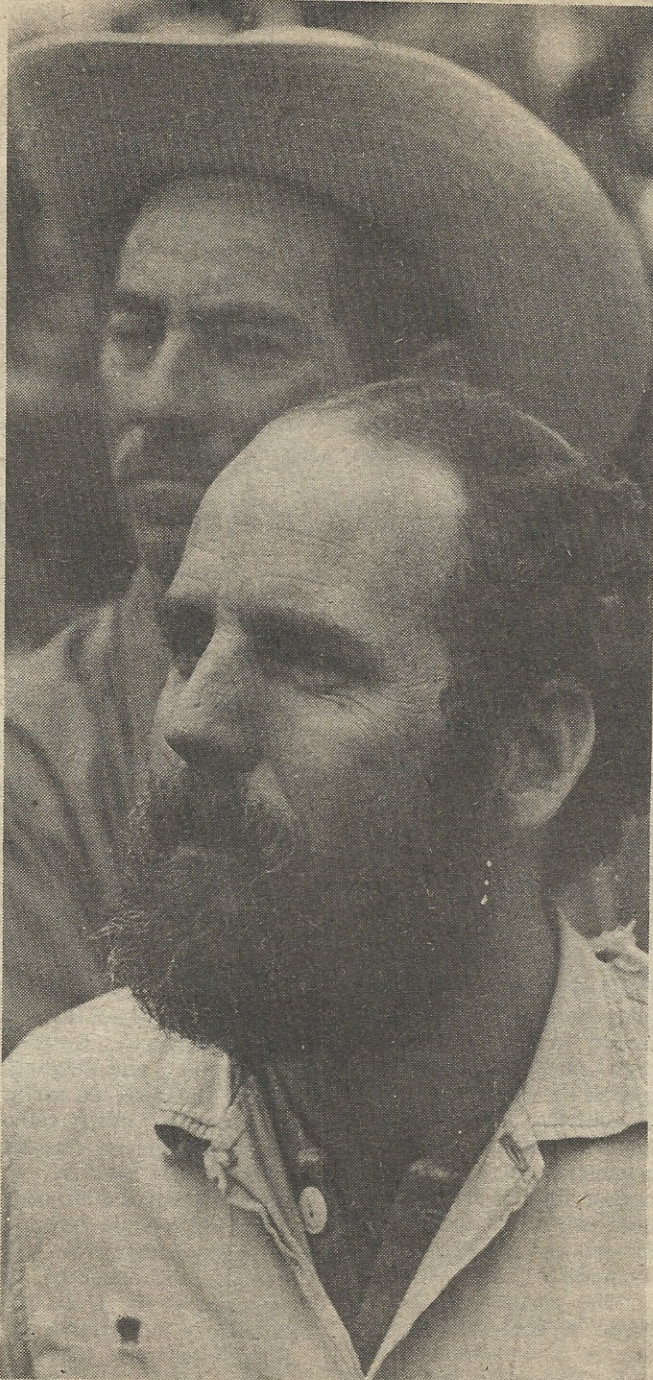


Photo By Dave Patrick

At the farm workers rally

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