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**Sierra Club Calendars**

**Walkman Earmuffs**

**Kagg Wool Gloves**

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**Bruynzeel Colored Pencils**

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**Few industries relocate to avoid U.S. safety laws**

**United Press International**

WASHINGTON — Union Carbide's plant in Bhopal, India, was modeled after its facility in Institute, W.Va. — with a few exceptions: it had no computerized monitoring system or emergency evacuation plan.

Last week's escape of deadly gas from the pesticide plant, the worst industrial disaster in history, at last count had killed more than 2,250 persons, many as they slept.

The tragedy resurrected an old and troubling question — do American industries go abroad to escape U.S. safety laws and surveillance, considered the toughest in the world?

Some critics contend that once many firms go abroad, even if they voluntarily impose the same regulations required in the United States, they do not have the pressure from government and communities to put safety ahead of profits.

Barry Castleman, an environmental consultant who has written extensively on the subject, said, "What I have found is that American businesses go abroad primarily for business reasons — to get near a market, supplies, labor."

"Once in operation, however, local management is concerned about profits — not safety," he said. "Particularly in Third World countries, there are no unions pushing safety. And there are no communities demanding to know what is being produced and how it is being produced." They also may have less than top-notch personnel.

Earlier this year, the Conservation Foundation, a non-profit research group based in Washington, conducted a study, "Are Environmental Regulations Driving U.S. Industry Overseas?"

It found "no significant examples of industrial flight from pollution or workplace health standards in industries where product demand is expanding and U.S. producers enjoy technological superiority."

But it concluded there appear to be a small number of chemical and metal industries that have crossed the border, often to South America and Third World countries, in search of more favorable laws.

It cited three examples in particular: —Producers of some toxic, dangerous or carcinogenic substances, such as asbestos, benzidine dyes and

**Doctors at Indian hospital walk out**

**United Press International**

NEW DELHI, India — Doctors at the largest hospital in Bhopal walked off the job in a wildcat strike Tuesday and left victims of history's worst chemical disaster without medical treatment, the Press Trust of India said.

It was not known how many gas victims remained in the Hamidia hospital, but PTI said at least 30,000 already had been treated there — the largest number of victims of the Dec. 3 leak treated at any single facility.

The disaster occurred when a cloud of methyl isocyanate spewed from the Union Carbide pesticide plant on the outskirts of the city on Dec. 3, some 360 miles south of New Delhi, leaving at least 2,250 people dead and 200,000 injured.

The strike began at 3 p.m. when a municipal official slapped one of the doctors on duty, PTI said, quoting N. R. Bandari, medical superintendent for the region.

"Only student doctors have put up some tables outside the hospital and are attending the gas victims," Bandari said.

Meanwhile scientists studied how to dispose of more than 30

tons of deadly gas still on the accident site.

PTI quoted officials saying the disposal was critical "as any failure might lead to another accident."

But Dr. S. Varadarajan, heading a team of experts who will carry out the task, promised they would "neutralize" the methyl isocyanate at "zero risk" to the 800,000 people of Bhopal.

The operation is no cause for panic and there is no reason to evacuate the city," he announced. Immediately after the chief minister's remarks were released, the government announced without explanation that all schools and colleges in Bhopal would be closed until Dec. 25.

The Press Trust reported "despite the government assurances ... people have started sending their family members, especially, women children and old people out of Bhopal."

A "leading medical authority" told the news agency that researchers from chemical warfare laboratories in the United States, Britain, Canada and West Germany were also pouring into Bhopal.

few pesticides, "where firms have been unable to develop safer substitutes or meet (U.S.) environmental or workplace" rules.

—Mineral processors of copper, zinc and lead "where environmental factors have combined with locational incentives and with economic problems to speed the dispersion of the industry internationally."

—Some companies producing a few chemical intermediates — combinations of chemicals needed for the manufacture of certain end products — where capacity has moved abroad in part because of pollution and workplace health stan-

dards. The methyl isocyanate released from the Bhopal plant is a chemical intermediate more poisonous than either of its components, but it is also used at factories in the United States.

Union Carbide, a multi-billion-dollar conglomerate headquartered in Danbury, Conn., manufactures products ranging from batteries to antifreeze. It has more than 50 plants, about 300 of them overseas, including 14 in India.

Union Carbide officials say the "state-of-the-art" Bhopal plant was built a decade ago and modeled after its facility in Institute, W.Va.

**U.S. Postal Service to raise 1st class stamp rate 2 cents**

**United Press International**

WASHINGTON — The Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service agreed in a closed meeting Tuesday to hike the price of a first class stamp from 20 cents to 22 cents next year, sources close to the board said.

The nine-member board, which originally asked for a 23-cent stamp, is expected to announce the decision to accept the Postal Rate Commission's recommendation at an open meeting Wednesday. The board also was to announce when the new rates will take effect, although the change is not expected to come before the end of January 1985.

The cost of mailing a letter was last increased in November 1981 when it went from 18 cents to 20 cents.

The sources said the governors also accepted the rate commission's September recommendation to increase post card rates from 13 cents to 14 cents and give bulk mailers a break by keeping the rates virtually unchanged on pre-sorted letters.

Van Seagraves, publisher of the authoritative Business Mailers Review said the governors were also expected to accept the rate commission's recommendations for second and third class postage.

He said industry finds the rates, also lower than what the governors originally requested, "very attractive."

Wednesday's meeting was to be the last for outgoing Postmaster General William Bolger, who retires Dec. 31. Chicago postal chief Paul

Carlin was named last month as Bolger's replacement in the \$81,000-a-year job.

At the same time Tuesday, the biggest labor arbitration in history began with word that the U.S. Postal Service had modified its request for a two-tier pay scale in a new contract with the nation's two largest mail unions.

Instead of paying new employees 23 percent less than current employees, the postal service now is suggesting a 19 percent disparity, said Frank Stella, a spokesman for the National Association of Letter Carriers.

The Postal Service, however, refused to either confirm or deny the development.

**Byrd sure of Chiles defeat**

**United Press International**

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd said Tuesday he was confident that he can repel a challenge from Sen. Lawton Chiles of Florida and remain as party chief in the 99th Congress.

"No question about it, no question," Byrd told reporters. "I can only say that I'm confident and sure."

Chiles, the 54-year-old ranking Democrat on the Senate Budget

Committee, said last week he would run against Byrd when Democrats meet Wednesday to pick their leaders for the coming Congress.

It is the first time that Byrd, the Democratic leader since 1977 and the whip since 1971, has faced a challenge — one more indication that party leaders are looking for a change following President Reagan's landslide victory.

Byrd, 67, is rated the favorite

against Chiles, who has offered himself as a "new face" in contrast to Byrd's old guard image and as a leader who would be more forceful, articulate and telegenic.

Chiles, a three-term senator, said he was partly prompted to run against Byrd because of the election by Republicans of Kansas Sen. Robert Dole as majority leader. Dole is expected to be a highly-active, very articulate leader.

**Ordination of women urged by Catholic priests' group**

**United Press International**

WASHINGTON — An independent group of Roman Catholic priests Tuesday called for full equality for women in the church and urged authorities to consider the possibility of ordaining women to the priesthood.

The 8,500-word draft pastoral letter, issued by Priests for Equality, recommended a 10-year process of study and experimentation on how women can share in the ordained ministry of the church.

The group, formed in 1975, has 2,100 members.

"Ordination to the priesthood is the controversial focus of reflections on equality in the church," the statement said.

"Despite Jesus' precautions against seeking priority of place in the community, ordination has come to occupy the central position on questions of authority and decision-making in the church," it added. "Ordination to the priesthood has become the door through which official ministry is initiated."

The priests' statement came as a committee of U.S. Roman Catholic bishops, under the leadership of Bishop Joseph Imsch of Joliet, Ill., prepared its own pastoral letter on the role of women in the church. That letter is not expected to be ready before 1987 and is not expected to challenge church teaching opposing women's ordination.

"As awareness grows that the

structures of our church, including language, imagery, ministry and decision-making are patriarchal, deeply committed members, both women and men, suffer alienation when they experience the resolve of church leaders to maintain the gender discrimination, even in the face of church teaching," the priests' letter said.

"Our church has authoritatively taught that in the fundamental rights of human beings, discrimination based on gender is contrary to God's intent," the group said. "Our failure to implement this teaching in the structures of our church is producing scandal. It undercuts our credibility to speak of justice in other vital areas of human need."