

Eastern Iowa Copy Exchange

Calendar

April 18 GWEN Vigil at high noon, and lasting 1/2 hour, 2 miles east of Mechanicsville, on highway 30. Weather permitting there will be a picnic afterward at the Mechanicsville city park. Bring a salad, or sandwiches, or drinks.

April 24 A Benefit Concert, featuring Georganne Cassat, harpist, is to be held at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Society, 10 South Gilbert in Iowa City. Donations at the door will go toward financing Martie Olson's trip to the USSR for the American Soviet Walk in early summer (see inside.) Cassat will be joined by Diane Pepetone who will do Writings and Voice. Following the event, a desert reception will include viewing of the Academy Award winning short documentary, "Women for America, for the World."

May 1 A Comedy show and art fest will help finance Patty Ankrooms trip to the USSR for the American Soviet Walk this summer. Featured will be a "Roast Patty" program in which people will revile Patty for past misdeeds. As part of the show Patty and others will sing. An art show and auction will follow, featuring works by local artists. The event will take place at 7:30 at the Bob Campagna house, 1560 Old Hwy 30 W, Abbe Gallery, Mt. Vernon

May 8 The Waubeek Trackers will make a cameo appearance in Old Brick, Iowa City, at 8:00 PM, along with other well known midwest artists. (Stay tuned to find out who will be playing.) This also is a fund raiser for Patty's trip to the USSR.

ED NOTE: Patty Ankrum, who is well known as a member of the Waubeek Trackers, needs to raise \$1000 by April 24, and another \$1000 by May 15. She will be singing to children in the USSR and will record Russian songs for use in this country. Her phone is 364-1345.

May 15 Rebecca Rosenbaum will present a slide show and talk about her experiences in Nicaragua at the Agudas Achim at 8:15 PM. Rebecca went to Nicaragua with a Jewish Delegation for the Witness for Peace last month. The Synagogue is located at 602 East Washington in Iowa City.

May 30 - 31 ... The Mobilization for Survival will hold their Midwest Meeting in Iowa City. Saturday a vigil is scheduled at the Mechanicsville GWEN site, to be followed by a talk by Ms Barber from the No-GWEN Coalition in Amherst to take place at a yet to be scheduled time at the Iowa City Public Library. Sunday's events will take place at the Wesley House. Phone Karen Kubby at 338-1321.

The Eastern Iowa Copy Exchange appears in your Mailbox at odd intervals, and features matters of concern to you. Written and financial input are required to keep us going. Stamps alone cost \$40 this month. Please write to: Franklin Seiberling, 199 6th Street #1, Coralville, IA 52241.

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Labor Donated

OPINION

The saga of SDI: Ike was right

By Norman Cousins

WHEN President Ronald Reagan first asked for \$6 billion for his "star wars" program, his main argument was that it was purely defensive and could be a breakthrough in advancing the national security. By way of underlining the peaceful significance of these antimissile space stations, the President said he was willing to share the new technology with the Russians.

Now comes the administration assertion it has reliable evidence that the Russians have perceived the devastating offensive capabilities of star wars and that we have no choice except to proceed with the Strategic Defense Initiative, as it is formally known, lest the Russians get there first.

Assuming this statement is a genuine reflection of the President's position, it is reasonable to ask three questions:

• First, why should it have come as a surprise to the President that SDI is potentially the most devastating offensive weapon in the entire arsenal of modern warfare?

• Second, why should we assume that any military device we are capable of making is beyond the military capability of the Russians?

• Third, if star wars in the hands of the Russians represents a grave threat to United States security, why didn't the President take advantage of the opportunity offered at the Iceland summit to bring a halt to SDI development in both countries?

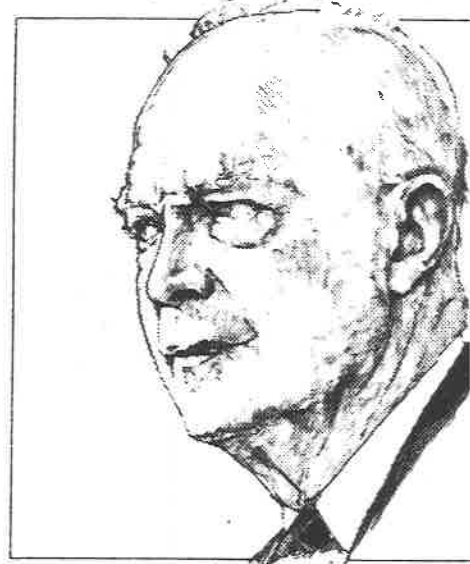
Let us hover over these questions.

First, the offensive potentiality of star wars was pointed out by military sci-

tists from the start in response to the President's flat assertion that the system was entirely defensive. These scientists explained that lasers on space vehicles could produce vast firestorms on cities below, making them even more efficient in destroying population centers than the missiles they were intended to intercept. An article in the January issue of *Physics and Society* points out that, apart from the immediate effects of laser attacks, the levels of smoke generated by massive fires could lead to subfreezing temperatures that would jeopardize the earth's ecosystems.

Second, with respect to Soviet military scientific capability: Each time we developed a new weapon, efforts were made to anticipate the problems caused by yet another escalation of the arms race. And each time, the Pentagon contended that the Soviets were either scientifically incapable of doing the same or that we had a lead that we couldn't afford to surrender. Shortly after the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima, Gen. Leslie R. Groves, military head of the US Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb, declared it would take the Soviet Union 20 years to make its own nuclear weapons, if indeed it could make them at all. General Groves opposed the efforts of American nuclear scientists who urged the US to seek agreements to head off an atomic armaments race.

Again, the US was first to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles. Scientists and others recognized that ICBMs in the hands of the Soviet Union would represent a serious threat to US security. But attempts failed to persuade the US to try to negotiate a halt in ICBM development. It became obvious that those who bene-



It appears Eisenhower was correct. The weapons merchants have an open channel to the US Treasury and have no intention of letting go.

fited from the production of these weapons were successful in forestalling efforts to slow the arms race. President Eisenhower's direct experience with these pressures figured in his warning to the American people about the combined power of the arms manufacturers, the military scientists, and the generals.

The third question concerns the present report from Washington that the Russians have perceived the offensive capabilities of star wars. Why should the

Russians know more about star wars than the President? And, if the President was not uninformed about the nature of lasers in space, why did he assure the American people that SDI was purely defensive?

All three questions have a bearing on the dangers to the security of the American people — represented not just by a runaway arms race but also by the prodigious strain on their economy. As an immediate matter, these questions spill over into the chances for effective negotiations with the Russians on arms control.

George Shultz, in reporting on the Iceland summit, said we could have had a comprehensive agreement if we had been willing to include star wars in the arms control package. The President claimed credit for his unwillingness to put star wars on the bargaining table at Iceland. A few months earlier, however, he had asked for authorization to proceed with star wars, on grounds he needed it as a bargaining chip in the summit negotiations.

Are we to assume that the President believes the American people have lost their memory? Or did his statements come off the same spool as his contradictory assertions about the Iranian-contra episode? Are government statements to be regarded as a way of skirting the facts?

More and more, it appears that President Eisenhower was correct. The weapons merchants have a strong hold on US policy. They have an open channel to the US Treasury and have no intention of letting go.

Norman Cousins is a professor of medical humanities at the University of California, and former editor of Saturday Review.

SHIRLEY HORN - STAFF

GWEN ACROSS AMERICA: PREPARING FOR NUCLEAR WAR

SANE WORLD

by Lois Barber

"Out of sight, out of mind" defines a persistent problem for peace activists. It's difficult to get people to recognize and respond to the threat when the beast is nowhere to be seen. And most nuclear weapons systems are just that—either buried in silos, concealed on military bases, hidden on submarines, or placed in foreign countries. The policies the weapons represent are kept equally out of sight: bound up in unintelligible reports, camouflaged in jargon, buried in committees, and classified behind closed doors.

But once in a while the nature of the beast requires some visible evidence of its existence, some protuberance that calls attention to the unseen. GWEN's appearance on the American landscape is just such a tell-tale physical sign of a largely unknown Pentagon policy that threatens us all.

GWEN Explained

Ground Wave Emergency Network, or GWEN towers, each 300 feet tall with a strobe light on top, are hard to miss. They're popping up all over America in predominantly rural communities, or, as one Under Secretary of Defense referred to them in congressional testimony, "the boonies." GWEN is an Air Force communication system linking sensor sites, command centers, and land-based nuclear forces. It is designed to go into effect only *after* nuclear war begins. It is a key element in the Pentagon's preparations to fight and prevail in a protracted nuclear war.

Phase I of GWEN, called the "initial operational capabilities" stage, involved building fewer than a dozen towers, mainly in the Midwest, to test the system. Phase II, currently in progress, calls for the completion of 56 towers scattered across the country. Phase III will bring the total number of towers to 127, connected in a web-like grid across

the countryside. Each tower costs \$1.4 million; the entire program is projected to cost \$1 billion.

The Pentagon expects that GWEN will survive and endure in a nuclear war by virtue of the "proliferation"—sheer number—of towers. A recently declassified Defense Science Board report succinctly expresses the Pentagon's assessment of proliferated communication systems. "We must provide facilities that we expect to be destroyed. We know that if we start out with only a few, we will likely wind up with none. If we start out with many, a few will remain—but we cannot predict which ones." A resident near a tower site in North Carolina cut to the heart of the feeling on the receiving end: "Asking a community to be a GWEN site is asking it to sign a suicide pact."

The People Fight Back

Grassroots opposition to GWEN first appeared in late 1984 when the Air Force began building a GWEN tower in Amherst, Massachusetts. Residents immediately asked their local officials to invite a representative of the Air Force to provide information and answer questions. Meanwhile, residents did their own research and learned about the true purpose of GWEN—and the policy behind it—from articles written by William Arkin, of the Institute for Policy Studies. This initial questioning laid the groundwork for what has become a successful nationwide education and opposition campaign.

The GWEN Project, co-directed for the past two years by myself and Nancy Foster, both of Amherst, has developed a national "No-GWEN" network. The growing opposition, though geographically diverse (with 40 GWEN-threatened sites in 20 states), has been effectively focused on the policy the towers stand for. The GWEN Project encourages an inquiry approach, letting questions lead the way to an informed opposition. Residents have called for local public hearings at 11 GWEN sites from Castine, Maine, to Biggs, California, and Greenville, North Carolina, to Mequon, Wisconsin.

Lois Barber was co-director of the GWEN Project for two years. She is currently co-director of the 20/20 Vision National Project.

These hearings bring high-level Pentagon and Air Force officials face-to-face with local residents in town halls and public libraries. The military representatives present a narrow view of GWEN to the public. They omit mentioning protracted nuclear war and, when questioned, deny it is the scenario GWEN is intended for. They repeatedly fall back on the claim used to justify almost every escalation in the arms race, that GWEN is needed to "enhance deterrence." To counter such omissions and misinformation, the public hearings have provided equal time to those who oppose GWEN. The public has heard the facts about GWEN's role in our nation's nuclear war-fighting plans from speakers from the Center for Defense Information, the Institute for Policy Studies, and the GWEN project.

Following these hearings, protests from citizens and elected officials have led the Air Force to reject or reconsider five sites for the towers: Amherst and Barre, Massachusetts; Sherman and Castine, Maine; and Eugene, Oregon.

GWEN in the Courts

The Air Force is also facing challenges in the courts. The county commissioners of Lane County, Oregon; the No-GWEN Alliances of Lane and Butte counties, California; and the GWEN Project have filed suit. The court action seeks to enjoin construction of GWEN towers on the grounds that the Air Force has failed to prepare an environmental impact statement, or EIS, on the 56 tower sites for the second phase of GWEN. The plaintiffs claim that such an EIS must address the environmental effects of GWEN towers in use—as targets in a nuclear war. The case is on appeal in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In response to public pressure, the Air Force did announce in August 1986 that it will prepare an EIS on the proposed third phase of GWEN. SANE and the Natural Resources Defense Council are among over 20 groups that gave submissions to the Air Force as part of the EIS scoping process.

SPRING 1987

The GWEN Project has also coordinated a successful lobbying campaign aimed at cutting off congressional funds for this dangerous and wasteful system. Led by Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and Rep. Silvio Conte (R-MA), Congress voted to cut Fiscal Year 1987 procurement funds for GWEN by 66%—from a requested \$97 million down to \$33 million. Exact figures aren't known yet, but the Air Force is requesting more money for GWEN in the FY 88 budget. Despite cuts to funding, the Air Force is planning to proceed with Phase III of the program.

Each GWEN tower is a visible manifestation of the Pentagon's belief that a nuclear war can be controlled. When leaders believe that, nuclear war becomes more "thinkable" and thus more likely. Their delusions could lead to the destruction of everything we care about defending.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Let your congressional representatives know that you think the GWEN program is the right place for a budget cut. All funding for GWEN should be eliminated.

The GWEN Project encourages individual citizens and groups to contact their local officials, Governor, Representatives, and Senators, alert them to GWEN, and ask to be notified immediately if the elected representatives become aware of plans for GWEN in their area. It is important that citizens take the initiative to learn about these plans as early in the process as possible.

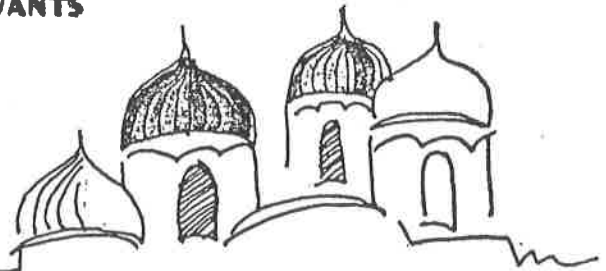
Concerned citizens should also obtain a draft of the GWEN environmental impact statement, which is expected to be released in the spring of this year.

For the latest information on possible GWEN tower sites and on how you can set up a No-GWEN alliance in your area, contact the GWEN Project, Box 135, Amherst, MA 01004.

THE AMERICAN SOVIET WALK—1987

...ENDING AN ARMS RACE NOBODY WANTS

Peace Mir



This June an unprecedented event will take place—"The American Soviet Walk...ending an arms race nobody wants." This is the most ambitious American Soviet/people to people exchange ever attempted.

I have been selected as a walker in this historic journey. My motivation to participate is the hope that by promoting livingry rather than weaponry, we can preserve this planet for our children. I am seeking your support.

The American Soviet Walk will be composed of 200 Americans and 200 Soviets learning, educating, camping and walking together from Leningrad to Moscow. The walk will take three weeks, with one week of orientation in Washington, D.C. (June 7 to July 8) The unique qualities of this walk are the joint participation, the large size, and the establishment of many new cultural exchanges. This is an unprecedented event for a dangerous yet hopeful time.

The purpose of the walk is to reverse the arms race through mutual understanding and education. The U.S. walkers will be made up of a varied group of individuals of all ages and backgrounds: business, farming, education, religious, peace and justice, elected officials and media. I was selected early as a walker and coordinator.

The trip will cost \$2,500. This is no small sum and hence one of the reasons for my letter. I am hoping to "represent" as many people as possible either through groups which are endorsing me or directly from individuals. I've been endorsed by groups such as my church, (Unitarian Society) the Eastern Iowa Presbytery Peace Committee, P.S.R., (Physicians for Social Responsibility). Some of the members of these groups are contributing to my fund. Your contribution would be very much appreciated and would help make my participation possible.

I am speaking to groups and organizations before I leave and will be available for giving presentations upon my return. If you would like to participate in our "Show and Tell" project, (description enclosed) I will be able to hand deliver your personal message to a Soviet citizen as I travel along the road from Leningrad to Moscow.

In closing, please be assured that our relationship will not be affected by your response. I simply want to offer you the opportunity to participate in this with me. Thank you for your support, interest and friendship. Letters (with or without donations) are greatly appreciated too.

I will be walking for you!

'SHOW-AND-TELL' ALBUM

The American Soviet Walk wants to carry the wishes for peace to the Soviet people from everyone. To do this we are taking a 'SHOW-AND-TELL' album with us. 'SHOW-AND-TELL' is a program designed to connect people from the United States with the Soviet citizens along the route of the Walk. To fill this album, we are asking everyone to send us one 8 1/2" X 11" sheet of paper on which you have photographs, drawings, writings, poetry or any other expressions of your life and desire for peace. Be creative, reach out to schools, churches, organizations and individuals who would wish to participate. Please mail your 'SHOW-AND-TELL' pages to us by June 1, 1987, so we can carry them to the Soviet Union with us. Please label your page with your name and address. Though only 200 will be able to go on the walk, we want to show the Soviet people that there are thousands upon thousands of Americans who share their wishes for peace and understanding.

Mail to : The American Soviet Walk - 1987
SHOW-AND-TELL
Suite 387
5421 Campus Drive
Irvine, CA 92715

Peace - Mir,
Martie

Patty Ankrum, another one of our Peace Alliance GWEN activists, is also going along on the American Soviet Walk, ==> and NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL HELP. Her address is:

1608 B Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Checks may be payable to: "Martie Olson"

If you wish the tax deduction, make payable to:

"Unitarian Society - American Soviet Walk"

Please return to me at: Martie Olson

R.R.1 Box 68

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

tel. 319/626-2125

WASHINGTON TALK

Contra Drug Inquiry Stirs Growing Interest

By KEITH SCHNEIDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 — Last June the Senate Foreign Relations Committee took interest in an inquiry its members knew was sensitive.

Investigators working for one committee member, Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, said they had found witnesses and uncovered evidence that suggested a private network had been organized by the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency to provide military equipment to the insurgents in Nicaragua.

The investigators said they believed the same network was also involved in shipping cocaine and marijuana back to the United States, with the possibility that the profits were then used to obtain still more arms for the insurgents, known as contras.

Since then, the White House has acknowledged the existence of the private aid network.

But Federal law-enforcement officials say that any contentions that the private contra supply network was involved in an organized effort to smuggle narcotics into Florida and other Gulf Coast states are absolutely without foundation.

Still, the rumors and allegations have persisted. And about 10 days ago the Foreign Relations Committee took over the investigation and hired a special counsel to direct it. He is Jack Blum, a 46-year-old Washington lawyer who has had much investiga-



The New York Times/Paul Hosefros

Jack Blum, special counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

now investigating reputed ties among drug traffickers, Administration officials and those who helped contra forces in Central America.

Further, the Tower Commission appointed by President Reagan to investigate the National Security Council has studied the allegations and is expected to discuss them in a report it is close to completing.

According to Mr. Blum, the evidence accumulated thus far by Senator Kerry's staff leads to at least one significant conclusion. "The contras and the contra network, its infrastructure, have been involved in the cocaine trade and in trafficking into southern Florida," he said.

Officials Are Dismayed

The activity by Senator Kerry's staff and the other Congressional groups has dismayed law enforcement officials in Washington and Miami, where the drug trafficking network is believed to be based. The allegations of the activity, say law enforcement officials, have come from a small group of convicted drug traffickers in South Florida who never mentioned contras or the White House until the Iran-contra affair broke in November.

"This story about drug smuggling and the contras was placed into the ears of Congressional investigators by convicted traffickers," said Billy Yout, a special agent in Miami with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"These individuals are selling a story to Congress and to the media that they have concocted to have their sentences reduced or to have their cases dismissed," he said. "They had plenty of opportunities to tell their story in court and none of them did."

The Congressional committees are also studying complaints by Federal lawyers that the Administration took action to impede narcotics investigations and prosecutions in Miami that could have led to the discovery of the private contra aid network.

Leon Kellner, the United States Attorney in Miami, has denied time and again that his office encountered any effort to obstruct drug investigations and prosecutions.

"We take drug prosecutions extremely seriously," said Ana Barnett, an Assistant United States Attorney in Miami. "No one in the Department of Justice or the Administration or any other official body has ever sought to impede or interfere with a drug prosecution. And if the day should come that somebody comes forward with evidence of this, we will pursue it."

Despite the denials, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and its chairman, Senator Claiborne Pell, a Democrat from Rhode Island, are pressing ahead.

"We want to find out for ourselves whether there is anything to these allegations; we are looking at the ma-

terial that Kerry has and seeing where that leads us," said Jerry Christianson, the committee's staff director. "The starting point is the contra drug running. There may be other issues that come up that suggests some other trails we may want to look into. We want to give increased attention to this issue."

The man hired to direct the investigation, Mr. Blum, formerly represented independent gasoline marketers in Washington and is no stranger to sensitive Senate investigations.

From 1972 to 1976 he was an investigator and associate counsel for the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations. Among the principal conclusions the subcommittee reached was that the ITT Corporation tried to influence the outcome of elections in Chile in 1972. The subcommittee also discovered that the Lockheed Corporation was bribing foreign officials to promote the sales of its products.

A Woman Called Wanda Doe

The Justice Department has also accused Senator Kerry's staff of interfering in an F.B.I. investigation by questioning a woman the Justice Department calls Wanda Doe.

According to an F.B.I. spokesman in Miami, the witness was employed for a short time last summer as a confidential informant and proved to be "reliable." But the spokesman said he could neither confirm nor deny the credibility of information about drug smuggling and the contras that the witness has told Congressional investigators.

The witness has told the Congressional investigators that she saw airplanes owned by Southern Air Transport land in Barranquilla, Colombia, unload weapons and load cocaine. Southern Air provided planes for cargo shipments to the contras, and flight records show that some of the planes made trips to Central America and Colombia. But Southern Air officials have denied that the planes were used for drug trafficking.

Mr. Blum says he believes that as the investigation progresses, other witnesses, including retired Drug Enforcement Administration agents, and retired intelligence agents, will come forth to verify that links between the contra supply network and drug trafficking existed.

He also says he believes the story might spread from Central America into other Federal agencies and to other continents.

"We've learned enough so far to take a very careful look," he said.

Is the connection real? Or was it concocted after the Iran affair broke?

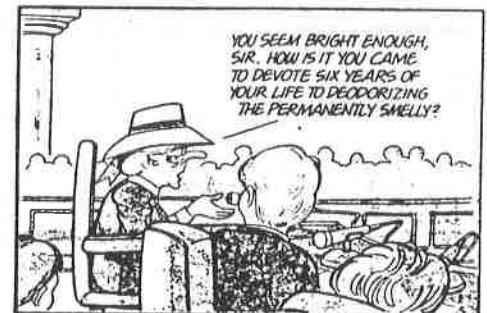
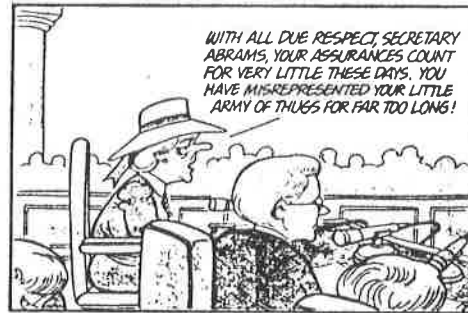
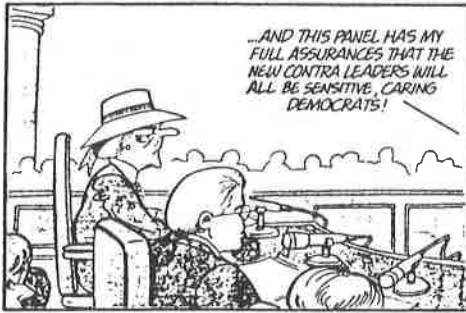
...tive experience on Capitol Hill and who became involved in this investigation as attorney for the International Center for Development Policy.

That group, which opposes the Reagan Administration's program in Central America, provided the funds for a joint investigation of the contras with Senator Kerry's staff.

What is more, the Foreign Relations Committee is not the only Congressional body interested in the matter. Two other committees, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and the special Senate committee investigating the Iran-contra affair, are

DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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