

EASTERN IOWA COPY EXCHANGE

GWEN VIGIL TO CELEBRATE SUMMER SOLSTICE

Join us June 20th at the GWEN Tower site, 2 miles east of Mechanicsville on HWY 30, as we celebrate the coming of a new season of bloom, inspite of the threat of the arms race. Bring a poem to read, an annual flower to plant, or an instrument and your voice, or anything else fitting into a "BLOOM NOT DOOM" theme. We meet at noon at the tower site for a half hour silent vigil, to be followed by the Solstice Celebration. We will have a picnic lunch afterward at the Mechanicsville City Park.

BEST WISHES GO TO THE PEACE WALKERS

Good travel wishes and heartfelt solidarity to GWEN vigilers Marty Olsen, Mickey McQue, Don Spencer, and Patti Ankrum now on a Peace Walk from Leningrad to Moscow!! We look forward to hearing from them on their return!! Watch for programs about this in the future at Doc and Jo's!!!

CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT STUDIES
3014 SEWARD ST.
OMAHA, NE 68111

The Eastern Iowa Copy Exchange, published at odd intervals, is a very non-profit newsletter dedicated to issues of peace and human understanding. Senior Editor & Distributor is Franklin Seiberling, 1133 Howell, Iowa City, IA 52240. => WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND CONTRIBUTIONS. Send material, mailing list additions and changes, inquiries to John Tinker, Box 66, Olin IA 52320. => Remember: it costs us \$12.00 a year to maintain you on our mailing list. Labor donated.



*Heartland Hope Festival:
A Midwest Peace Celebration*

*August 7, 8, 9
Omaha, Nebraska*

*Visual & Performing Artists
Workshops & Display Tables
Nonviolent Direct Action at
S.A.C. Headquarters*

Registration Costs

We are asking folks to pay \$3/day to attend the festival. This includes the cost of housing, showers, art exhibits, and evening concert performances. Families will pay a maximum of \$10/day.

Three Ways to Participate in the Heartland Hope Festival

Visual and Performing Arts

Come see the many midwest visual and performing artists who will be featured during the festival. There will be painters, photographers, sculptors, potters and others expressing their hopes for peace with justice through a variety of different mediums.

Workshops and Display Tables

There will be workshops offered on peace and justice issues and on the practical skills of organizing. In addition to this, artists will be giving workshops on how to better utilize the arts in our peace work. There will also be many display tables with valuable information.

Nonviolent Direct Action at S.A.C. Headquarters

S.A.C. Headquarters is the command and control center for all U.S. ICBMs and strategic bombers. It is also home to the Joint Strategic Targeting Planning Staff, who are responsible for the targeting strategies of all U.S. nuclear weapons. There will be three ways for you to participate in nonviolent direct action at S.A.C.

There will be a 24 hour/day vigil at the S.A.C. main gate that you can take part in. There will also be leafletting from 7:00-8:30am on August 8 and 9.

In addition to this, there will be opportunities to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience. You may take part in the large mass action to be held on August 9th, or at some other time during the festival. (For more information on this part of the festival read the section in this pamphlet on civil disobedience.)

REBECCA ROSENBAUM REPORTS:

Last March I went to Nicaragua with Witness for Peace. Like all Witness for Peace short term delegations, we went to the war zone (in our case to Wiwili on the border of Jinotega and Nuevo Segorty), met many people, and worked on a work project (digging a ditch which will eventually carry potable water.) We saw first hand the effects of the war, and came back prepared to speak about our experiences. (Please call me at 319 337-5187.)

One unique aspect of our delegation was that it was a Jewish delegation, WFP's second. A special task we took on was to investigate allegations of Sandanista anti-semitism, much touted in certain (Republican, Reagan, Grassley) circles. In Miami where our coast-to-coast group met for training, we saw the following memo:

Israeli Foreign Affairs

VOL. III No. 1

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY RESEARCH REPORT
ON ISRAEL'S DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES WORLD WIDE

February 1987
ISSN 0883-9832

Anti-Semitic Charges Concocted

Edgar Chamorro, a former director of the FDN, the main contra organization, has cast light on the origins of a longrunning campaign to portray the Nicaraguan government as anti-Semitic. The decision to perpetrate the smear campaign, Chamorro told journalist Jeff McConnell, was made in Coral Gables, Florida during a meeting he had with three CIA officers in the spring of 1983. "This was just a propaganda-type thing," he said.

The story has its own anti-Semitic twist, with one of the CIA men repeating an ugly old calumny. As Chamorro related it, the CIA thought charging the Nicaraguan government with anti-Semitism would be particularly valuable prop-aganda.

They said that the media was controlled by Jews, and if we could show that Jews were being persecuted, it would help a lot.'

According to Chamorro, the CIA knew that the two "persecuted" Nicaraguan Jews put forward to the White House press corps in July 1983 had run afoul of the new government because of their close links to Somoza, and had been treated no differently than other collaborators with the former dictator.'

Nonetheless, the "anti-Semitism" campaign was picked up by the White House and by right-wing Jewish groups, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and JINSA (Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs.) Dozens of other Jewish groups went to Nicaragua to investigate the charges. All repudiated them, as had the Reagan ambassador to Nicaragua early on in the vendetta. Nevertheless, the ADL has continued to issue accusations of anti-Semitism against Nicaragua. (IFA 4/86)

These are the kinds of tactics the CIA uses ... misinformation directed at specific ethnic and religious groups here and abroad. No Surprise, huh. It's the kind of information that inspires a person to sit down in front of the CIA gate and say "NO", like almost 600 people did on April 27th, the day before that same organization directed the assassination of Begamin Linder. Need more information about this? I'll try and get some out in subsequent issues of the copy exchange. Sorry this is short and in haste ... Peace!

The Testimony of a 41 year old Salvadorian Woman -- Holy Week 1987
From "Letter to the Churches", a newsletter published by the information
service of the Pastoral Center, Central American University, San Salvador

"I believe I am the only survivor of the massacre in Mozote. It occurred December 11, 1981. We were there then, just as we are here now in the refugee camp; all you could see were children since the people had fled their villages to come to Mozote. That's how they killed so many people, because we had all taken refuge there and when they found us they killed all of us.

The soldiers came on foot, and at 7 a.m. an airplane landed. They said that they had orders to kill everyone, that nobody was to remain alive. They were from the Atlacatl Battalion and they locked us up, the women in the houses and the men in the church. We were 1,100 people in all. The children were with the women. They kept us locked up the entire morning. At 10 or 11 a.m., we looked around and saw that they were killing the men in the church; first they machine-gunned them and then they decapitated them. I was looking out the window and said: "Look, they're killing the men and they're going to kill everyone!" All the women began to cry and scream. The children were shocked, they didn't understand what was happening and the soldiers guarded the doors so no one could leave.

At 2 p.m. they began to take the women out; they had finished killing the men. They took me away at 5 p.m. to kill me. Only a few women were still left. When they came for me I didn't want to go. They left the children locked up and they made nooses to strangle them and decapitate them. They took away the 8 month old daughter I carried in my arms. They had their large knives and continued to make nooses. They took my 8 month old daughter and my oldest son and took them inside, while they took me away with the other women to kill us.

'My God,' I said, 'God almighty, don't let me die here. God knows we're not guilty of anything.' As we came to the place where they were going to finish us off, they lined us up to kill us. I sat down alone and moved away, hiding beneath a small bush. I covered myself with the boughs to defend myself, so they couldn't see my feet. Then I watched them machine gun to death the women. There were twenty women in my group and I was the last. So they killed the women lined up there and brought back another group which they killed in a shower of bullets.

The women screamed and wept: 'Don't kill us, we don't know anything, we're not involved with anyone. Why are you going to kill us?' The soldiers replied, 'Don't cry, don't scream, because the devil will come and take you away.' But they continued to kill them. I was right there beneath their feet, hiding. When they finished killing the people, they sat down nearby and said they had been sent to kill everyone, because these people were all guerrillas. They burned all the bodies and left them amidst the flames. One child cried out from the midst of the fire. Another man came and said to a soldier, 'Look, you didn't finish killing him.' So the soldier went and shot him; the child stopped crying. I was almost engulfed in flames. I was so close to the slaughter there.

Later, they said, 'They're all dead here; let's go and kill the children.' They left, leaving a few soldiers here and there; and I looked for the moment to escape. But my children were still locked in the houses. They killed all four of my children: my nine, six and three year olds, and my 8 month old daughter. My children were killed there, and my husband too. Only my parents are alive -- they had already come to the refugee camp here -- and my two daughters who had been saved because they lived further away.

I spent seven days and seven nights in the hills all alone, without meeting other people, without food or drink. I didn't find anyone; they had killed them all. It has to be God's will that I am still alive; God has allowed me to live so I can make a declaration about what the Army did. Everyone was deceived. They believed they would be taken to Gotera. We too didn't believe they were going to kill us, but I saw when they were killing the people and burning the bodies of men and women. I didn't see them kill the children but I heard their screams and cries when I was still hiding."

COLLECTING CENTRAL AMERICA EYEWITNESS REPORTS

I have a collection of unpublished eyewitness reports from Central America. If anyone would like copies of them, let me know. Also, if you have additions for this collection, please send them to me. John Tinker, Box 66, Olin IA 52320.

PHYSICS GROUP POINTS TO GAPS IN LASER-WEAPONS ISSUES From the June 1987 issue of "Laser Focus/Electro-Optics:

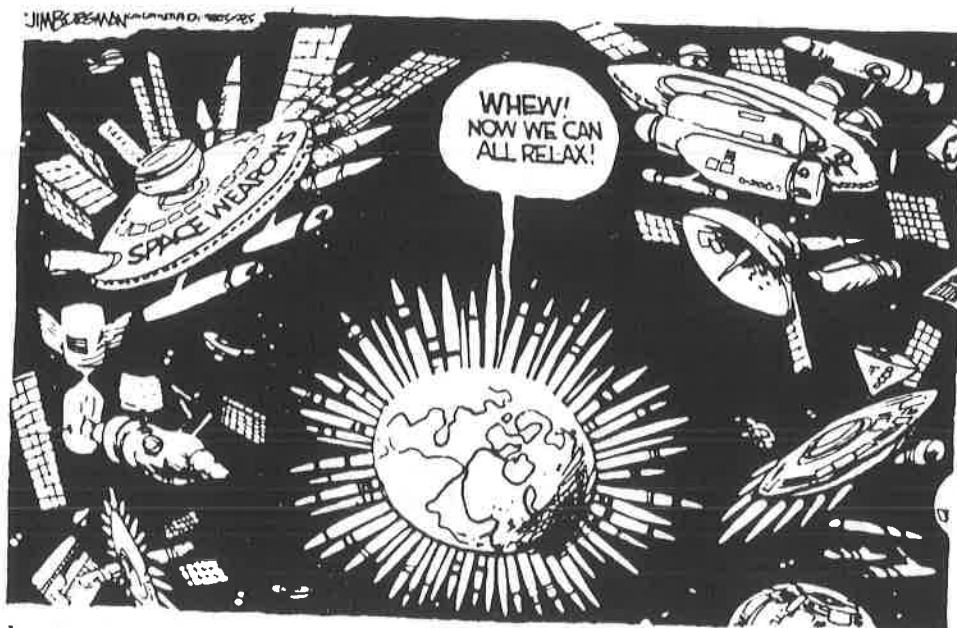
A committee of the American Physical Society has raised new questions concerning the role of lasers and other directed-energy weapons (DEWS) in strategic defense. The committee decided that "significant gaps exist in the scientific and engineering understanding of many issues associated with the development of DEW technology."

Asserting that "important issues of overall system integration and effectiveness depend critically upon information that does not yet exist," the committee concluded: "Even in the best circumstances, a decade or more of intensive research would be required to provide the technical knowledge needed for an informed decision about the potential effectiveness and survivability of DEW systems."

The committee was chaired by C.K.N. Patel of At&t Bell Labs and N. Bloembergen of Harvard University. Membership included people from weapons and industrial laboratories and universities.

Patel summarized the findings on April 27 during the CLEO/IQEC plenary session in Baltimore, Md. He called the conclusions "rational" and said there were no dissenting views on the committee.

The 425-page report of the committee will be published in full in the journal "Reviews of Modern Physics."



by Jim Borgman, Cincinnati Enquirer, King Features Syndicate



Slain activist feared assassination

United Press International

Contra hit list suspected, friends say

By David Alcott
The Tribune

Two fellow activists in the Bay Area who knew Benjamin Linder, the American volunteer killed by the contras in Nicaragua Tuesday, said yesterday Linder had told friends he believed he was targeted for assassination.

A third friend of the dead activist, Dave Blume of Planetary Movers in Oakland, posted a \$5,000 reward for information leading to identification of the contras who killed Linder, a mechanical engineer lending his expertise to the Nicaraguan government.

"Our company had been supporting his project for the last 18 months," said Blume. "I'm sure it was mercenaries or CIA employees who are responsible for his death. This has got to be a criminal act and we want to find out who's responsible."

The two fellow activists, David Wald of Santa Clara and David Creighton of Berkeley, said Linder's friends in Managua reported he believed he was targeted for death.

Creighton cited an attack on a hydroelectric project in Nicaragua.

"Last month, the contras tried



Engineer Benjamin Linder unwinds measuring tape at a Nicaraguan construction site in 1986 photo.

to blow up the El Cua dam project that Ben worked on. That was where he had a hydroelectric facility. Ben thought he was targeted. He told friends in the last two weeks he thought he was on a list," said Creighton.

"We are an international development organization and we do not usually take a political stand," said Creighton, a member of the Berkeley-based technical support project called tecNICA with which Linder worked.

"But we try to be as candid as possible about what we see in Nicaragua, and we see a lot because we actually work with them. It is clear to us that Benjamin was murdered because of U.S. policy.

"We condemn that for what it is: State-sanctioned terrorism by the contras. It is clear that what the contras are waging is a war against the people of Nicaragua and the human services that make the country a liveable place."

Linder was working for the Nicaraguan Ministry of Electricity as a volunteer from the Bellingham, Wash., support project known as the Nicaragua Appropriate Technology Project.

In Bellingham yesterday, NICAT spokesman Tom Voorhees said his group believes Linder was marked for death, partly because he was a party to a lawsuit filed last year by the Center for Constitutional Rights. The suit is aimed at stopping U.S. aid to the rebels, said Voorhees.

In Portland, Linder's hometown, his brother, David Linder, 27, said he blamed the U.S. government for the first death of an American civilian in the 5-year-old civil war in Nicaragua.

Linder was an associate of

tecNICA and a friend of Creighton, who visited him in Managua last fall.

Linder appeared publicly in Berkeley last October, presenting a slideshow on his hydroelectric project. Fifty people attended and contributed \$1,000 to his project, Creighton said.

Wald said he is leaving tomorrow on a similar mission to Managua, more determined than ever "to shut down that whole operation (the contras)."

Wald, 59, a mechanical engineer, charged that the contras "targeted Ben. I think it was a deliberate effort on their part to kill him. Other people believe the same. A Nicaraguan woman who escaped from the contras recently said she heard from her captors that Ben had been targeted."

Creighton and Wald each said Linder was not an ideological warrior or a volunteer soldier even though he occasionally armed himself on trips into the countryside.

"There was nothing macho about him," said Wald. "He was a gentle person. He was known in Managua for dressing up in a clown's costume and riding his unicycle in the streets to amuse the children on holidays."

Wald described himself as a "left-leaning critic of the Reagan administration." He said he was a Vietnam War protester dating back to 1963 and a member of "the movement" since then, including former associations with Marxists.

But he said he's never been interviewed about his Nicaraguan work by the FBI, which Rep. Don Edwards, D-San Jose, accused last week of "harassing" American volunteers to Managua.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLAR IS SPENT



This representation of how your 1987 income tax dollar is spent differs from the government's spending breakdown for two reasons:

- 1) Many military-related costs that the official budget places in other categories are combined here to reflect the costs of total military spending. In addition to the National Defense Function 050 (36.7% of the total budget), we include military-related in-

terest on the debt (12.3%), veterans' benefits (2.9%), and the international security assistance program (1.1%).

- 2) Expenditure from trust funds, such as Social Security, has been excluded from the calculation because these are paid for by taxes separate from the income tax.

Source: SANE World, Summer 1987

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