



ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

DOCTORS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

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by J. Orient

DDP DEBATE TO BE PRESENTED ON CABLE TELEVISION

Should the United States deploy strategic defenses against nuclear weapons? Tucson DDP members Jane Orient and Bill Anderson argued in favor of this policy change in a debate with State Representative Peter Goudinoff (D-District 11) at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center last May. The debate will be cablecast on public access television, channel 37, at the following times:

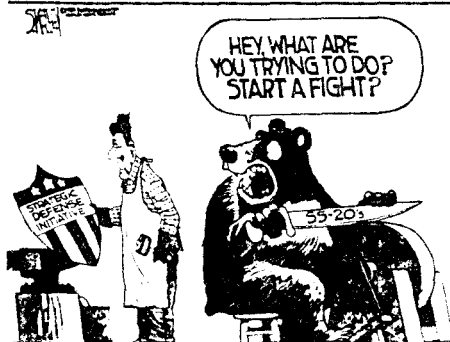
- Tuesday, August 20, at 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 22, at 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 27, at 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 6, at 1:30 p.m.

Videotapes (1/2 inch VHS format) are also available from Dr. Orient (325-2689).

DDP argued that our current strategy of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), which deliberately keeps the civilian population hostage, is immoral and unstable. The Soviets are already deploying defenses, having never accepted the MAD idea. Defense, at least of our increasingly vulnerable land-based missiles, could be accomplished with off-the-shelf technology.

Dr. Goudinoff, who teaches a course in national security at the University of Arizona, and who has coauthored the book The People's Guide to National Defense, acknowledged the feasibility of defense, but argued for the inevitability of MAD, given the nature of nuclear weapons. He stated that our response to an attack should be straightforward: "blow the bejesus out of them," even at the cost of 100 million lives in a first-strike-plus-blackmail scenario. However, he does hope that nuclear weapons will eventually "just go away," like the Coast Guard batteries did, though he differs with disarmament advocates who think we could simply agree to scrap them.

We are indebted to High Frontier for animations and footage from the Army's historic Homing Overlay Experiment, in which a small rocket tracked and destroyed a missile fired 4000 miles away. We thank Elisabet Bailey, head of the speech department at Pima Community College, for moderating the debate. We are grateful to all who made the videotape possible, especially to Lori Allen for her camera work. If you like the program, please let the Tucson Community Cable Corporation know (131 E. Broadway).



SOVIET WARHEAD REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ATTACK ON US

To Reach US	With No Defense	With Defense
5	5	200
100	100	3300
1000	1000	33000
8000	8000	264000

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--Wall Street Journal 7/24/85. Assumes two-layer defense, with each layer 80% effective.

THE EFFECT OF PSYCHOTHERAPY ON THE ARMS RACE AND ON CIVIL DEFENSE

After a showing of the BBC movie Threads (reviewed in this newsletter in March, 1985), Palo Verde Hospital offered counseling, waiving the usual \$25 urgent care fee. The emergency rooms of Tucson General, University Medical Center, and Tucson Medical Center, also cooperated in this local effort.

Advertising donated by television stations airing this program in Dallas, Boston, and New York urged viewers to call Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). As reported in American Medical News (MDs do their part to ease anxiety over nuclear war, July 12, 1985), telephone banks in three cities handled about 850 calls. "There are no cures for the effects of nuclear war. But there is prevention," said a soothing voice, which suggested a contribution to PSR.

The impact of such psychotherapy on the arms race has not been noticeable. A National Intelligence Estimate reports that the Soviets may start deploying a nationwide ABM system next year. In addition, Soviet nuclear warheads are projected to increase from 9,000 to between 12,000 and 15,000 by 1990. Silos are being readied to receive more SS-20 missiles in Eastern Europe.

On the other hand, the PSR-supported campaign to defund US civil defense has been remarkably successful. Despite the Administration's stated belief in protecting our population, this year's budget request for civil defense was the lowest in the program's history, in real terms, representing a 40% reduction compared with 1985. The result:

The annual shelter survey will be eliminated.

No shelters will be upgraded.

State and local emergency operations centers, vital for controlling both natural and war-related crises, cannot be improved.

No funds will be available for the emergency broadcast system, the only means for government communication with citizens in a national emergency.

Communications equipment will not be hardened against the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effect.

No radiation detection instruments will be purchased or maintained.

Research on civil defense will be eliminated, and training will be cut back.

Are you now feeling less anxious? Are you more reassured about your children's future? Are you more confident than ever that the city's medical system would collapse in the wake of disaster (nuclear or other), just as portrayed in Threads? If so, send your thanks to the psychiatrists of PSR, who generously give their time to calm those who are worried by the films they promote.

TRIAGE EMERGENCY CARE HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Drawing on his experience as director of the disaster team at O'Hare Field, and on years of teaching in the Medical Self-Help Program (formerly a part of US civil defense), DDP President Max Klinghoffer has written a first aid manual that explains the WHY as well as the HOW in managing a wide variety of injuries. Principles of triage, preventive measures such as water purification, methods of transportation, control of bleeding, splinting of fractures, care of electrical injuries, and the use of radiation meters are among the subjects covered. Medical and rescue personnel, as well as lay people, could benefit from study of this well-illustrated volume. Triage Emergency Care Handbook can be ordered from Technomic Publishing Company, Box 3535, Lancaster, PA, 17604, for \$25.
