



Peace Shield

THE UNITED STATES — The cartoon by the Oregon District Institute, which supports President Reagan's proposal for a one-year space-based missile defense system, has stirred a 1985 boycott aimed at convincing viewers of the reality and wisdom of the plan. The 30-second commercial uses a child's sickly drawings and a little girl's voice to support the "Peace Shield" that would stop missiles in space so they couldn't hit our shores. "There already could win a war... and if nobody could win a war, there's no reason to start one."



Burial At Sea?

THE UNITED STATES — Hoping to dispense the bodies of 200 different forms, lists of legal and illegal substances have been presented to the country, as well as the list of the 100 most common of sea water being in located from leaving ships, the Environmental Protection Agency hopes to encourage an end to all aspects of the process. The participating companies will be set out that they will contribute to the industry's efforts to clean up their act. EPA's goals, and the distribution, and which is controlled by the nation's largest oil companies. Opponents are worried by the possibility of dumping contaminated oil in the ocean, and the possibility of a spill in a harbor or at sea. While a spill in the ocean could cause a significant loss of life, a spill in a harbor could cause the EPA, a significant loss of life would be lost, and the loss of the ship would be lost.



Genetic Engineering

THE UNITED STATES — The Environmental Protection Agency approved the first commercial use of genetically engineered bacteria, allowing Advanced Genetic Systems, a California genetic engineering firm, to use bacteria that they produce from their own. The bacteria was genetically altered to be able to break down oil. The EPA has not completely banned the use of a living organism that is genetically engineered, such as the spread of the new genome, as it is not known which could affect the genetic code of other plants. However, the biotechnology industry is still in the early stages of setting up a genetic biotechnology industry.



Space Burials

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Transportation Department is in the process of approving plans to bury a crashed space shuttle in space. Plans are to launch the ashes of more than 10,000 people into a 100-mile high orbit. Burial space would cost about \$4,000. The orbital system would be in a highly elliptical orbit, so that it would be in space for the week with the shuttle or small telescopes. The ashes will be off. A guarantee of burial.



Defense Spending

THE UNITED STATES — The nation's largest defense contractors have doubled their political contributions since President Reagan took office, with the top 20 firms giving 100 million to the 104 congressional and presidential campaigns. Top congressional members of the budget, however, say that the contractors had received no more than the nearly 100% increase in defense contracts of the last four years to a \$69 billion total in 1984.



Hunger

THE UNITED STATES — Claiming that hunger has increased since being virtually eliminated in the '70s and is increasing in a White House task force that was unable to substantiate allegations of rampant hunger, the President's Task Force on Hunger, a group of 27 prominent physicians and academics, said that at least 20 million Americans now suffer from varying degrees of hunger that is growing because of Reagan Administration cuts in federal nutrition assistance programs.



Abortion Speakout!

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a drive to defile abortion rights against the attacks of anti-abortionists, the National Abortion Rights Action Fund held a day-long speakout where anti-abortionist women, members, grandmothers, bookshelves, bookshelves, and friends held personal experience with abortion and also read from 10,000 to 40,000 letters of personal testimony. Under the theme "We Are Your Mothers, Your Daughters, Your Sisters, Your Friends," they spoke of their personal beliefs, thoughts and feelings, and personal experiences that led them to choose abortion.



U.S. Sanctuary Movement

THE UNITED STATES — In a protest against the Reagan Administration's refugee policies, cities across the nation will be holding their own Sanctuary Movement. City employees are being urged to support with Immigration and Naturalization Service officers (including Guatemala and Salvadoran refugees who are being denied political refugee status and are being deported to their war-torn countries). While Berkeley, Ca. and St. Paul, Minn. were the first to take action, cities across the U.S. have followed suit. New York City, Chicago, Takoma Park, Md., Madison, Wis., Olympia, Wash., El Paso, N.Y., Burlington, N.Y., Cambridge, Mass., among others. Supporters of the City of Sanctuary Movement compare their stance of civil disobedience to that of the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.



Leave Home Without It, Please

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At a meeting on high-consumer credit and interest rates, Rep. Frank Annunzio (D-Ill.) urged that "if enough consumers [pay their credit cards] out of circulation, as they say, if they cut them up and mail them back they will not credit card money going to us who can use their credit the better." Back to the credit card industry might be the end of giving consumers credit card interest rates as high as 18.9%, with some as high as 21.9%, while they paid credit card interest rates as low as 9% interest on the money they borrow.



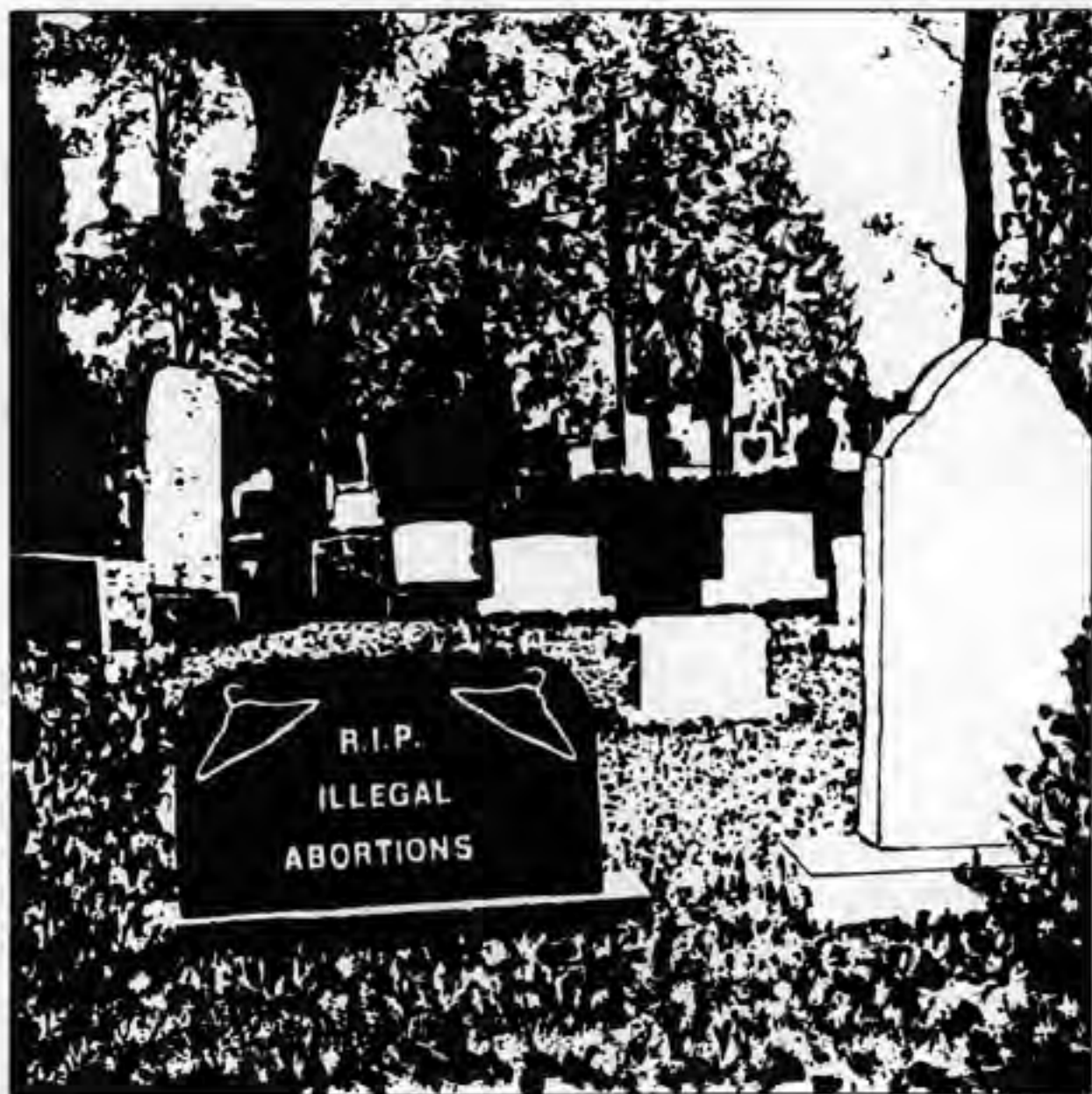
Peace Shield

THE UNITED STATES — The Coalition for the Strategic Defense Initiative, which supports President Reagan's proposal for a star wars space-based missile defense system, has aired t.v. commercials aimed at convincing viewers of the feasibility and wisdom of the plan. The 30-second commercial uses a child's stick-figure drawings and a little girl's voice to explain the "Peace Shield" that "...would stop missiles in space so they couldn't hit our house. Then nobody could win a war...and if nobody could win a war, there's no reason to start one."



Space Burials

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Transportation Department announced approval of plans to carry cremated human remains into space. Plans are to launch the ashes of more than 10,000 people into a 1,900 mile-high orbit. Burial in space would cost about \$4,000. The orbiting remains would be in a highly-reflective container so that it's easy to spot from the earth with binoculars or small telescopes. The ultimate send-off. A guarantee of heaven.



Abortion Speakout!

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a drive to defend abortion rights against the attacks of anti-abortionists, the National Abortion Rights Action League held a day-long speakout where single women, married women, mothers, grandmothers, husbands, brothers, and friends told of personal experience with abortion and also read from 35,000 to 40,000 letters of personal testimonial. Under the banner "We Are Your Mothers, Your Daughters, Your Sisters, Your Friends," they spoke of rape, poverty, youth, biological defects, and personal circumstances that led them to choose abortion.



Burial At Sea?

THE UNITED STATES — Hoping to dispose of the yearly 264 million metric tons of liquid and solid hazardous toxic waste generated in the country, as well as to deal with the hundreds of tons of toxic waste being re-located from leaking dumps, the Environmental Protection Agency hopes to use incineration at sea. Advocates of the process say that ocean-going incinerators will be so hot that toxic substances will be reduced to harmless carbon dioxide, water vapors, and hydrochloric acid which is quickly neutralized by the the ocean's natural alkalinity. Opponents are alarmed by the potential for devastating contamination of the marine environment in the event of a spill in a harbor or at sea. While a spill on the continental shelf could have a significant short-term impact, according to the EPA, a spill on the open seas would quickly be diluted, reducing the long-term effects.



Defense Spending

THE UNITED STATES — The nation's largest defense contractors have doubled their political contributions since President Reagan took office, with the top 20 firms giving \$36 million to the 1984 congressional and presidential campaigns. Top congressional recipients of this largess, however, deny that the contributions had anything to do with the nearly 150% increase in defense contracts in the last four years to a \$69 billion total in 1984.



U.S. Sanctuary Movement

THE UNITED STATES — In a protest against the Reagan administration's refugee policies, cities across the country are declaring themselves Cities of Refuge. City employees are being told not to cooperate with Immigration and Naturalization Service officers investigating Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees who are being denied political refugee status and are being deported to their war-torn countries. While Berkeley, Ca. and St. Paul, Minn. were the first to take action, cities across the U.S. have followed suit: New York City, Chicago, Takoma Park, Md., Madison, Wis., Olympia, Wash., Ithaca, N.Y., Burlington, Vt., Cambridge, Mass., among others. Supporters of the City of Refuge Movement compare their stance of civil disobedience to that of the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.



Genetic Engineering

THE UNITED STATES — The Environmental Protection Agency approved the first open-air use of genetically engineered bacteria, allowing Advanced Genetic Sciences, a Calif. genetic engineering firm, to test bacteria that may protect plants from frost. The decision was immediately challenged by critics who claim that the EPA has not completely forseen the test's long-range effects on the environment, such as the spread of the new genetic trait to other bacteria which could affect the growth cycles of other plants. Meanwhile, the booming genetic engineering industry eagerly awaits the opening up of a lucrative biotechnology market.



Hunger

THE UNITED STATES — Claiming that hunger has reappeared after being virtually eliminated in the '70's and in response to a White House task force that was unable to substantiate allegations of rampant hunger, the Physicians Task Force on Hunger, a group of 22 prominent physicians and academicians, said that at least 20 million Americans now suffer from varying degrees of hunger that is growing because of Reagan Administration cuts in federal nutrition assistance programs.



Leave Home Without *It, Please*

WASHINGTON D.C. — At a hearing on high consumer credit card interest rates, Rep. Frank Annunzio (D.-Ill.) suggested that "If enough consumers take their credit cards out of circulation, or, better yet, if they cut them up and mail them back you will see credit card issuers vying to see who can cut their rates the lowest. . . ." Banks and other card-issuers might be accused of gouging since consumer credit card interest rates average 18.6%, with some as high as 21.6%, while these credit card issuers pay about 8% interest on the money *they* borrow.

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Illustrated History

— 1985 —

This is the fifth in a series of yearly chronicles of contemporary issues, chosen for their impact on the future. Although the articles look like they're right out of the paper, they're not. They have been written by me and typeset to look like "real" newspaper articles. All stories are TRUE, however. Illustrations are also original creations by me incorporating my unique xerox-photo-collage process.

This book is meant to be *used*. This cover opens out into a 22"x17" poster which reproduces all the postcard images. Thus, the postcards are to be sent, the poster to be posted.

—*Mariona Barkus*

This book is dedicated to the memory of the artist's mother,
Bertha Barkus.

Published by Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, N.Y.
with support from the New York State Council on the Arts

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Typeset by Markham & Co., Santa Monica, CA
Litkus Press Ltd., P.O. Box 34785, Los Angeles, CA 90034