

Orleans couple: 'extremists' for the FBI . . .

By JACK DAVIS

Two undercover FBI operatives who posed for years as Marxist radicals actually encouraged left-wing activists in New Orleans to take more extreme actions than they wanted to.

Harry E. "Gi" Schafer and his wife, Jill, are now considered by activists here and elsewhere in the country to have been "agents provocateurs" who used disruptive tactics to fragment protest and antiwar movements.

Schafer, they report, urged strategies they regarded as violent and possibly illegal.

Until they ceased work for the FBI last year, the Schafers engaged in the kind of "dirty tricks" that characterized the FBI's Counterintelligence Program, or Cointelpro, which was officially discontinued after April, 1971.

The Cointelpro effort is expected to be investigated by the select committees recently set up by the Senate and House of Representatives to examine intelligence gathering by federal agencies.

SINCE HE became active with a Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) group at the University of New Orleans in 1969, Schafer—a 31-year-old former mathematics graduate student who supported George Wallace in 1968—has been involved with radical causes around the country.

Jill Schafer—a 36-year-old housewife and mother of three who was announced with the 1958 debutantes here—became a "radical" slightly later, and traveled with her husband to conferences and demonstrations elsewhere, often in a private plane which he piloted.

She was included in a group of 25 radical American students who went to China in December, 1971. She met Premier Chou En-Lai and furnished the FBI with detailed reports.

Revelations about this trip and trips by her and another FBI operative have fired a controversy in Washington over whether the FBI has the authority to compete with the foreign operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

FBI OFFICIALS here and in Washington have confirmed that the Schafers were paid by the FBI, but have refused to discuss their activities or financial arrangements.

The Schafers, FBI agents and Jill

Schafer's parents asked The States-Item not to disclose their identities or current location in an article that appeared Feb. 21, because they claimed the family might be put in danger.

Since then, however, their names have been widely circulated on a nationwide leftist grapevine. Their identities have also been published in the UNO Driftwood, The Courier and two nationally distributed leftist newspapers published in New York.

While Cointelpro operatives in the past have infiltrated militant black organizations, the Communist party, and the Ku Klux Klan, the Schafers focused on educated white activists, particularly those in the antiwar movement based on college campuses.

SUCH ACTIVITY in New Orleans has been disorganized and weak when contrasted with other cities, and has been confined largely to rhetoric and thinly attended demonstrations. In this context, participants distinctly recall actions by Schafer, who is described as always trying to "out-radical" the others.

Former SDS members described two occasions when Schafer urged them to "trash," or vandalize, French Quarter motels just before Mardi Gras in 1971.

On one occasion, Schafer tried to talk others into throwing heavy objects through hotel windows, to disturb the "rich pigs"—in protest against what the SDS members considered police harassment and brutality toward "street people," according to one account.

On both occasions, Schafer's proposals were rejected, according to persons who attended the meetings:

AT AN ANTIWAR meeting at Loyola, a then high school student now in graduate school said he was approached by Schafer, who introduced himself as a chemistry student who knew how to make explosives.

"He also mentioned in that context that wasn't it wonderful that we were situated in Southeast Louisiana where there were oil wells, etc., that could be blown up, and weren't we interested in his ideas on this," recalled the student.

Schafer was apparently trying to learn if he and a companion were inclined to "incendiary politics" and "terrorism," the student said.



Schafer's SDS days

Harry E. "GI" Schafer III was photographed in April, 1970, as he was arrested during a Students for a Democratic Society demonstration at the University of New Orleans. The incident came not long after he became an undercover operative for the FBI. (Staff photo).

"My immediate reaction was that this guy's either probably a cop or else crazy enough to really believe in this stuff," the student concluded.

SCHAFFER WAS more successful, as the most visible SDS leader at UNO in 1969 and 1970, in pushing student radicals into actions they hadn't otherwise planned.

One story told by several persons involved a protest against Marine recruiters coming to the school. When others planned to distribute leaflets saying, "Get the Marines off campus," Schafer persuaded them to change the message to "Off the Marines"—which means "Kill the Marines."

After he had left graduate studies in early 1970, university officials had him arrested twice on campus and charged with trespassing, disturbing the peace and wrongful use of public property during demonstrations staged to protest a

university ban on an SDS newsletter called *The Thorn*.

Police records are not clear as to the disposition of these charges, but there is no record of a conviction.

AT ONE of these demonstrations, April 23, 1970, about 200 students crowded into the University Center lobby and saw Schafer shout Dean Edgar Burks. He called Burks a pig and ripped up a statement Burks was trying to read warning the students to disperse or be arrested.

Another organizer of the demonstration said the arrests of Schafer and three others probably would not have occurred without Schafer's provocative actions.

(An issue of *The Thorn*, which had been distributed by Schafer's SDS group the day before, accused the university of suppressing student activities by calling

Turn to Page A-4, Column 1

FBI 'extremists'...

Continued from Page 1

(in undercover police.)

In an interview last week, Burks, now vice chancellor of student affairs, described Schafer as a "provocateur" who "caused the university a lot of trouble" by attacking its policies, disrupting administrative meetings, and publishing erroneous information in *The Thorn*.

"IF GI SCHAFER was an agent of the FBI and did what he did, I resent it," Burks said. "It's one thing to gather intelligence; it's another to provoke dangerous situations."

He said Schafer's activities not only wasted administrators' time, but cost the university money, including legal fees to obtain court orders banning him from the campus.

However, the activities Schafer participated in produced the kind of reaction from students reflected in an editorial column in the Sept. 25, 1970, *Driftwood*:

"SDS has succeeded only in creating disruption. . . . It has instilled fear and distrust instead of faith. That is why 'leftist' movements usually find favorable responses lacking."

The Schafers appeared in South Dakota during the 71-day occupation of the town of Wounded Knee by the American Indian Movement (AIM). Several New Orleans activists received telephone calls from Gi Schafer asking them to bring guns and ammunition to Wounded Knee, according to David Shroyer, a UNO English instructor.

A CURRENT graduate student on another campus who was called by Schafer said that Schafer also talked about building defensive bunkers at Wounded Knee and "drawing fire" from federal law enforcement officers (including FBI agents) surrounding the town.

Another activist, a former Vietnam veteran, said Schafer called him to ask for ammunition—"for nine millimeter Luger, for .30 caliber, for 30 ought six"—and requested people "who knew how to use weapons," including high-powered rifles. Schafer said he planned to air-drop supplies into Wounded Knee from a plane, according to the activist.

The activist said he suspected that the phone call was bugged, and that answering Schafer's request would mean being arrested on the way to Wounded Knee, something that had already happened to others responding to requests for aid.

In an interview with *The States-Item*,

Schafer said the reports that he had asked people to smuggle firearms through the blockade were based on a misunderstanding of his telephone messages.

HE SAID he called to request supplies for Wounded Knee, which included things that might be needed in a possible battle with the federal officers. "There were a number of people calling around the country asking for guns," he said. "I was very careful about how I worded things."

Schafer insisted that he had not done anything illegal while participating in radical activities.

"At no time was any law broken," he said. "At no time did I ever engage in any entrapment activities . . . or illegal surveillance . . . nor did I ever incite anything."

Kenneth Tilsen, an AIM lawyer in St. Paul, Minn., said Schafer had claimed to have flown guns to Wounded Knee. Tilsen said the Schafers appeared at the beginning of the occupation, and Jill helped set up the Wounded Knee Information Center—the official clearing-house for supplies and support.

"She was sort of acting like she was in charge," he said, but her activities were so counterproductive that she was "thrown out" after a few days.

TILSEN SAID the Schafers were involved in a group called the "Crazy Horse Collective," which competed for funds and support with the information center. He said Schafer helped spread

The States-Item

rumors and press releases creating a false public impression of a split between AIM occupiers and Wounded Knee residents. "It was a crude government ploy," Tilsen said.

After the occupation, Schafer frequented the legal defense office for the arrested Indian leaders and acted suspiciously, Tilsen said, adding that he ejected Schafer from the office twice. Schafer "threatened to kill me" both times, Tilsen said.

During the occupation, Jill Schafer spent time in New Orleans, and organized a demonstration outside the federal office building on Loyola Avenue March 21, 1973—to protest FBI actions at Wounded Knee, according to participants in the demonstration.

Earlier, Schafer had helped discredit a movement to oppose a transit and utility-fare increase in New Orleans, according to Collins Vallee, a lawyer who was an organizer of a demonstration outside the Baronne Street offices of New Or-

Leans Public Service Inc.

THE JAN. 7, 1972, event was quiet and peaceful, involving mostly moderate political activists, until Schafer showed up wearing a Mao button and grabbed the attention of television news reporters, Valles said.

On camera he launched into a Maoist tirade that was interrupted by the issue of a rate increase, Valles said. The incident was a "trick" of firing off the word "Maoist" from an informant's mouth.

John Chin, 23, said he was a member of other demonstrations, such as the "Maoist" several days before, who felt Schafer was doing a "trick" with his overtly Maoist "Maoist" image.

Chin said he was a member of the chapter at UNO and that Schafer often attended their meetings. He said he was a member of the group before, but that he was not who spoke at the event.

Just before the event, he was told by a source that Schafer was a government informer.

especially since he often used a camera and sometimes a tape recorder.

Schafer apparently admitted his allegations about his role in firing off the word "Maoist" from an informant's mouth.

Schafer's deputy who was told to pose as an undercover agent—in turn branded Schafer a cop.

However, Crews' credibility with persons in the radical movement was undercut when he identified himself as an intelligence officer at a House Internal Security Committee hearing Oct. 11, 1972.

A Tampa informant, Edward Burton, who has identified himself as an FBI operative, told The States Item that the "Red Collective," the Maoist group set up in part by the Schafers, was in fact supported by the FBI and resembled sham Maoist leaders in Tampa and other cities.

BURTON SAID he visited the Schafers in New Orleans several times and observed their activities. He said he was an operative of the FBI in which they were active.

Burton said he was told by the Schafers that they were going to bring about a revolution in any way, but anything to prevent them from coming together.

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