

INSHORT

By Joel Bleifuss

Blood on the tuna

Tens of thousands of dolphins continue to be slaughtered by a U.S. tuna fleet that has "reflagged" in order to skirt the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (see *In Short*, Sept. 30, 1987, February 10). Sam LaBudde, a former U.S. government biologist, spent four months working undercover on a Latin American tuna boat. LaBudde describes his experience this way: "Listening to 500 dolphins striking in panic as they fight against the net and gasp for air, seeing crew members toss a baby dolphin back and forth like a football, standing by helplessly as living dolphins were dragged aloft thrashing and flailing in terror before being literally crushed to death in the power block—is enough to make anyone give up eating tuna for life." Last month LaBudde's videotapes of tuna-boat dolphin slaughter made the network news. As Dan Rather warned the viewers, these scenes "could change your eating habits." A variety of environmental and animal-rights groups are calling for a boycott of all products produced by the two leading dolphin killers, H.J. Heinz (StarKist Tuna) and Ralston Purina (Chicken of the Sea).

Administration aids dolphin slaughter

If the dolphin-slaughter video hasn't changed the nation's eating habits, it has instigated congressional hearings. On April 13 the Senate and House will begin an oversight review of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The act sets limits on the number of dolphins the U.S. tuna fleet can kill each year. One question the Senate will want answered is why "foreign" fishermen on reflagged U.S. vessels who import tuna in to the U.S. have failed to comply with the U.S. kill-limits as Congress required in a 1984 amendment to the act. A staff member of the Senate Commerce Committee told *In These Times* that, "coincidentally," the Commerce Department established that 1984 amendment as a federal regulation on March 18, just after scenes of dying dolphins made national news. Further, the department is giving "foreign" fishermen until 1991 to comply with the 1984 amendment. What is the Commerce Department doing? The committee staff member replied, "That is the question that has to be asked."

Hold the toxics

Each year McDonald's uses about 70 million pounds of the chemical polystyrene to produce billions of styrofoam burger packages. And each day McDonald's adds 2.3 million cubic feet of this non-biodegradable, non-recyclable plastic trash to the environment. Production of styrofoam produces air emissions that destroy the earth's ozone. Those same gases are also produced when the styrofoam is burned. To help give the world a break, today, the Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste of Arlington, Va., is calling for people to take "McAction" during Earth Day Week (April 19-25).

The shark has teeth

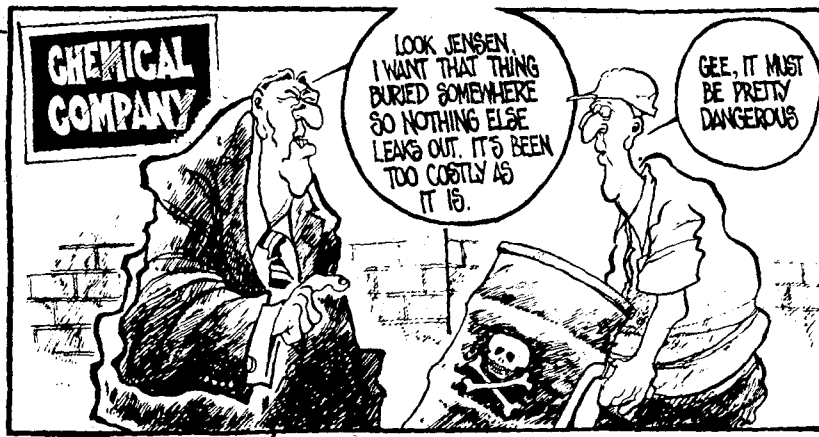
More than 94 percent of the CEO's (chief executive officers) polled by *Fortune* magazine said they wanted to keep the presidency Republican in November. Explaining why we should pay attention to their preference, *Fortune* said, "Fortune 500 CEOs in general possess greater than average means to get theirs."

Get yours

Office Manager's Handbook of People Power Strategies is the ultimate self-help guide for today's executive. According to publisher Edward Carlton of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., this book will teach you how "to manipulate the paranoid personality," how "to get unmotivated, lazy clerical help to shape up," how to "keep employees content by feeding their egos instead of their wallets," how to influence people by "using certain people's tendencies to misinterpret reality," and "how to appeal to other people's greed, guilt and ego."

New fiction

"In a league of its own" is how one reviewer characterized Arthur L. Hoffman's new novel, *Tail Tigerswallow and the Great Tobacco War*. This "near-future fantasy" is the tale of Glenn Morgan, an anti-smoking advocate, and Joel Hammond, tobacco mogul. According to Armador Publisher of Albuquerque, N.M., the story goes like this: "A guerrilla army is mobilized and Glenn is its general. His principal adversary, Joel Hammond, chief executive of-



Air Force report implicates Agent Orange

Vietnam veterans plagued by poor health that they claim is linked to Agent Orange won crucial support March 22 when two U.S. senators released a revised Air Force study on the dioxin-laden defoliant. The Air Force reported that it could "not exonerate dioxin as an agent of causality" for liver, neurological and psychological disorders, as well as cancer and birth defects.

Reviewing conclusions from a 1984 study of military personnel who handled the defoliant, the Air Force found a positive correlation to potential adverse health effects in five of the 11 criteria analyzed. The previous 1984 conclusions had sought to reassure veterans that their problems were not related to the herbicide.

"What they're doing is trying to reverse themselves without really saying so," Eric Hamburg, an aide to Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) told the *New York Times*. Kerry and Sen. Thomas Daschle (D-SD) both Vietnam vets, unveiled the revised study as part of their push for legislation to compensate Agent Orange-affected vets.

Between 1960 and 1971, crew members with the 12th Air Commando Squadron—subjects of the military's 20-year health study—sprayed Vietnam's jungles with an estimated 13 million gallons of Agent

Orange. That included 360 pounds of pure TCDD-dioxin, an Agent Orange byproduct that is the most lethal chemical ever made by man. The Pentagon suspended the use of Agent Orange in 1970 when previously-suppressed studies indicated a link to birth defects in rodents.

"For years I've felt that trusting the Veterans Administration and the Air Force on this is akin to asking Dracula to guard the blood bank," says Joe Bangert, head of Boston's Vietnam Veterans Association. "Our claims have often been dismissed as emotional 'Orange-mail,' that we were just beating on the government to get money out of them. But now the Air Force is saying essentially what the Vietnamese scientists in Hanoi have been saying for 15 years—that dioxin equals severe health problems."

A class-action suit, which now includes some 263,000 Vietnam veterans as plaintiffs—was settled out of court with seven chemical manufacturers in 1984. But the settlement fund, now worth about \$270 million (or slightly over \$10,000 per veteran), has been held up by vets' attorneys arguing that the compensation is inadequate. Bangert believes that the new study may bring a resolution closer.

Meanwhile, a new draft study of dioxin by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks to downplay previous risk assessments by sixteenfold. And on March 14, the EPA announced it will not study the

potential effects of 2,4-D—the chemical that comprised 50 percent of the Agent Orange formula—despite the likelihood that the herbicide is carcinogenic.

Although 2,4,5-T, the other component of Agent Orange, was banned for all domestic uses by the EPA in 1985, 2,4-D remains the fourth most widely used pesticide in the U.S. The National Cancer Institute found in 1986 that Kansas farmers who used 2,4-D more than 20 times a year, mixing their own formulations, were eight times more likely than normal to contract non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph system.

A 1978 internal report by a Dow Chemical scientist noted that chemical contaminants in 2,4-D made it so toxic that farmers should not allow the herbicide to touch their skin. This report came to light last year in a Texas court, where a jury returned a \$1.5 million verdict against Dow, finding that 2,4-D had caused the malignant lymphoma that killed a U.S. Forest Service worker. It was the first judgment to link 2,4-D directly to cancer. Yet, according to agency spokesman Al Heier, the EPA maintains that animal studies "do not suggest" that 2,4-D is a carcinogen.

So when it comes to Agent Orange and its ingredients, the irony for the moment is that the Air Force—not the EPA—appears to be on the side of the victims.

—Dick Russell

Law school tenure battle heads to court

In an unprecedented action, the faculty of the City University of New York (CUNY) Law School has filed a lawsuit challenging the denial of tenure to two of its professors. Faculty and students claim that CUNY Chancellor Joseph Murphy overstepped his authority by denying the unanimous tenure recommendations of three university committees and the

Law School's dean, Haywood Burns.

The five-year-old CUNY Law School, located at Queens College, is famous for its unconventional approach to legal education. It is the only law school in the U.S. designed to produce public-interest lawyers. Many students come from backgrounds traditionally excluded by the legal profession. About 60 percent of the students are women and 40 percent are from ethnic minorities. The university's unorthodox style emphasizes legal clinics and field work rather than traditional lec-

tures and textbook study of great cases. Paul Brest, dean of the Stanford Law School, describes the CUNY program as "the most innovative and exciting experiment in legal education anywhere in the country."

The current problem began last November, when only 30 percent of the school's graduates passed the 1987 New York State bar exam. The law faculty admits that this poor showing needs to be addressed, but claims that the low scores also reflect the school's teaching philosophy of relying on clinical and simu-

lated work.

Before the scores were known, four members of the faculty and two librarians had all been unanimously recommended for tenure. But the bar exam results apparently caused university officials to panic. After the scores were released, Chancellor Murphy and Queens College President Shirley Strum Kenny overruled the tenure decisions on the basis of insufficient evidence of "teaching effectiveness." On reconsideration, Kenny then recommended that two professors, Homer La Rue and Vanessa Merton, be refused tenure. Murphy upheld her decision. Neither administrator offered any explanation.

La Rue, the first black CUNY law professor to be considered for ten-

ure, is a nationally recognized expert in labor law. Merton left New York University Law School to come to CUNY where she developed the school's Health in the Workplace Clinic, the only program in the country that offers representation to injured and disabled workers. Both are founding members of the faculty.

Supporters say the university is scapegoating the two professors to appease "traditionalists" in the legal community who object to CUNY's teaching philosophy. Daniel Greenberg, director of Harvard Law School clinical programs, accuses the university of adopting "the managerial style of George Steinbrenner." He says CUNY officials are "using the bar-exam results to destroy CUNY's

long-term goal of using law in the service of human needs."

What has been surprising is that Murphy, a self-styled progressive, has been so unyielding on the issue. He has ignored all appeals to reconsider his decision. Faculty members complain that he has failed to discuss the situation with them. But the faculty is determined to resist. Rhonda Copelon, a professor active in the current struggle, says it is a "tragedy" that the faculty is being forced into a fight over tenure. "But," says Copelon, "if we don't fight we are going to be pushed toward conforming to more traditional tenure standards. We won't be able to remain a teaching faculty."

—Ken Silverstein

The movement takes on Mayor Sawyer

CHICAGO—Black Chicagoans, still angered about the December 2 deal that made Eugene Sawyer acting mayor, delivered a stunning rebuke in the March 15 primary to the black aldermen who helped bring the old machine back to power.

The recent contests for Cook County Democratic ward committeemen provided the first opportunity to gauge voter reaction to the all-night battle in the City Council chambers last December, and the results look bad for Sawyer. Four of the six black aldermen who helped elevate Sawyer suffered defeat in Democratic committeeman races.

When a massive heart attack felled Mayor Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor last November 25, Alderman Timothy Evans, who had served as Washington's floor leader in the council, was the most visible spokesman for the late mayor's agenda. In the city's black communities he was the people's choice to succeed the enormously

popular Washington. But in the final tally, six of the 18 black council members joined 23 white aldermen in voting against Evans.

Most of the city's black leadership denounced the action of those six. They are now targeted for defeat by various spokesmen for the "movement" that coalesced around Washington. "Certain politicians have to understand that Harold may be dead, but his movement is still very much alive and it will bite them at the polls," said Jackie Grimshaw, one of the late mayor's closest aides and an avowed Sawyer opponent.

The March 15 committeemen races provided the first opportunity to assess Grimshaw's claim: in Chicago's peculiar one-party political culture, the Democratic committeeman's office is the political nerve center of the ward; committeemen exert more local clout than aldermen.

Ald. William Henry, perhaps the main player in Sawyer's election, lost his committeeman post to Jesse Miller, a longtime community organizer. Alds. William Beavers, Marlene Carter and Sheneather Butler, all supporters of Sawyer, were also de-

feated by Evans supporters. And the four Hispanic aldermen who backed Evans were victorious in their committeeman races.

Pundits in the mainstream press interpret the results as the first salvo in the battle between the forces of Evans and Sawyer for the mayoralty. And Sawyer's black supporters apparently accept that characterization. They've now begun demanding that the low-key acting mayor retaliate against his black political enemies.

But more seasoned organizers in the black community advise caution in casting Sawyer as an enemy and his supporters as a contending power bloc. They contend the committeeman races demonstrate a displeasure with the process that elected Sawyer, not necessarily Sawyer himself. Furthermore, it's an open secret that white Democrats are seeking a consensus candidate to challenge Sawyer, who's already announced his intention to run for mayor. And, the reasoning goes, if black voters are divided in their loyalties between Sawyer and Evans—or anyone else—it will open the way to victory for a white.

The growing white ethnic exodus to the Republican Party has increased the possibility that a strong GOP candidate could be elected mayor. Republican Cook County Sheriff James O'Grady, a former police official and Democrat, is the name bandied about most frequently when discussing this possibility. Ed Vrdolyak, Washington's arch-nemesis, is another.

The black community of this city faces an acute dilemma: should it rally behind Sawyer, because, as one precinct worker put it, "he's the only black mayor we've got"? Or should it actively work to present an attractive alternative to Sawyer and thus divide precious support between two black candidates, enhancing the chances of a strong white candidate?

As the recent elections indicated, Chicago's black voters have gained sophistication in Harold Washington's wake; the defeat of the pro-Sawyer forces was surgical in its precision. But the election also makes Washington's legacy of black empowerment seem a bit more fragile.

—Salim Muwakkil

ficer of America's largest tobacco company, tenaciously fights back, using all the vast resources at his disposal. However, Hammond's efforts are undermined at home, where a once-loving wife turns against him. Their estrangement, leading to his son's death during an attempted sabotage against Joel's company, only heightens his resolve to win the war against Morgan and his troops...." It is reported that "militant ex-smokers" are finding this novel "delightful and encouraging."

Sandinista baptism

As the U.S. was sending troops to Honduras, the American priest Roy Bourgeois was in Managua baptizing President Daniel Ortega's four-month-old daughter, Camila. According to the *National Catholic Reporter*, Ortega invited Bourgeois to Managua to baptize his daughter after the priest's eight-month stint in the Oakdale, La., federal prison for protesting U.S. Central American policy. Camila is Daniel Ortega's and poet Rosario Murillo's seventh child, and first daughter.

See, hear and speak no evil

Last tweek, in addition to sealing off Palestinian neighborhoods in the West Bank and Gaza, Israel shut down the Palestine Press Services in East Jerusalem. By closing the 10-year-old news service, Israel has denied the foreign and domestic press their only reliable source of information on the Palestinian uprisings. Reporters now need to rely on official military "media information centers" that report the activities of "incited mobs." Last February a West Bank correspondent for a leading Hebrew daily told the London *Guardian's* Ian Black, "The Palestine Press Service is generally faster and its information more detailed than the army's and it is often more precise. The army spokesman's statements have become more and more laconic and impenetrable as the trouble has continued." United Press International had been in contact with the Palestine Press Service about 10 times each day, according to Jerusalem bureau chief Louis Toscano. "I think that in terms of telling you what's going on, they're doing a hell of a lot better than the army. The army spokesman has done a miserable job of handling this entire episode so far and their reputation has been permanently damaged. They constantly tell you things are under investigation when you know damn well they're not looking into anything."

Sitting out the uprising

King Hussein of Jordan, if not actually opposed to the Palestinian demonstrations on the neighboring West Bank, "would be very relieved to see the uprising come to an end," according to David Hirst of the *Guardian* of London. Despite his "lip service" to Palestinian national aspirations, "the last thing [Hussein] is really believed to want is an independent Palestinian state." Hirst writes that Jordanian state television has manipulated coverage of the uprising. "First it presented a fairly rounded, if limited, picture of the uprising; then it began showing only the backs of Israeli soldiers; then it confined itself to still photographs with an accompanying commentary. 'Everything,' said one exasperated viewer, 'except a picture of Palestinians being spontaneous—and actually throwing stones or petrol bombs.'" A Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official in Amman told Hirst that Jordanian demonstrations of solidarity with the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories have been handily dispersed by Jordan's Public Security forces. "People are really afraid of them. They tell the people: 'You can say and do what you want in your homes but not in the streets. Otherwise we shall break your heads.' That's been enough so far. They have proved in the past how rough they can be." This Jordanian failure to support the uprising—a failure that is duplicated throughout the Arab world—could lead to a spreading of Palestinian demonstrations. Already at least six pro-Palestinian protesters have been killed in Morocco, and Kuwait has reportedly detained 250 Palestinians. A member of the Palestine National Council told Hirst: "It is not an easy thing to say at a time like this, but we know in our hearts that what the Israelis have so far done in the Occupied Territories does not compare with what some of our regimes would do if they were faced with uprisings of their own."

Original articles, news clips, memos, press releases, reports, anecdotes, raw gossip—send them all to "In Short," c/o *In These Times*, 1300 West Belmont, Chicago, Ill. 60657. Please include your address and phone number.



Eric Omer