

INSHORT

By Jim Naureckas

And no Illuminati, either

Televangelist turned presidential candidate Pat Robertson says in his basic campaign speech that the first thing he would do as president would be to remove the influence of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the Trilateral Commission from the State Department. "I would make an absolute pledge," he says, "that I would appoint people in those jobs who are free from CFR influence and would be absolutely certain that we got people in the State Department particularly who would stand up for the United States of America and stop trying to move us toward a one-world socialist government."

Life of the party

The Nicaraguan civil opposition, seen by congressional "moderates" as the shining hope of that country, continues its process of mitosis. At last count there were 16 separate parties or sub-parties, including three Conservative and four Liberal parties. One reason for the constant party splits is that in Nicaragua, unlike the U.S., it is legal for parties to receive foreign funding. "Everybody wants to be the leader, especially since it means having control over the funds from Europe, Venezuela and the U.S.," a Sandinista leader recently explained to the D.C.-based Central American Historical Institute.

I was a contra

Eiren Mondragon, a contra regional commander who accepted a Sandinista amnesty in 1985, on life in the contra camps: "Women were being raped there... They played cards for the women, for the peasant girls. The contras would grab whatever girl they wanted and throw her in their tent and abuse her." The Quakers' American Friends Service Committee quoted Mondragon in a recent report, "I protested in a written report that I gave to [top contra leaders Enrique] Bermudez and [Adolfo] Calero. They said to me, 'Thanks for your report. But if we take this away from them, 80 percent of the troops would leave and the war would have to stop.'"

Twilight in America

More reports are coming out on the real state of the '80s economy. A Congressional Research Service study finds that real hourly wages have declined 10 percent since 1970. Meanwhile, the Council on International and Public Affairs, a non-profit research group based in New York, reports that the real jobless rate rose two percentage points in 1987, to 15.8 percent, the highest rate since the 1982-83 recession. (The council's jobless rate includes people the government counts as the unemployed, plus part-time workers who want full-time jobs and "discouraged" workers who have given up looking for work.) And the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington research group, announced that programs for the poor have been cut again in fiscal year 1988. Since 1981, these programs have been cut by 54 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Vote of confidence

The FBI's harassment and infiltration of groups critical of the Reagan administration was documented last month through a Freedom of Information Act request by the Center for Constitutional Rights (see page 2). But these FBI dirty tricks were already in the public record when then-FBI head William Webster was undergoing confirmation hearings to be made CIA director last spring. (See the April 22, 1987 *In These Times* cover story on the "Federal Bureau of Intimidation.") Yet the Senate still confirmed him on May 19, 1987, with only one dissenting vote—Harry Reid (D-NV), who complained that Webster's FBI had conducted "reprehensible" investigations of Nevada officials.

Beyond Wingo

Rupert Murdoch's London tabloid, the *Sun*, published stolen letters to a male lover that forced a judge to resign last month. Letters from judge Martin Bowley were reportedly taken from Bowley's lover by a thief who wanted to force the lover to sleep with him. According to another judge quoted in the *Manchester Guardian*, "The *Sun* knew before publication that these letters must have been received by them from a blackmailer who wanted to publish because his victim would not comply with his blackmail demands."



YOU CAN'T LIVE ON HOPE.

You hope this guy is finally the right guy.

Saatchi & Saatchi's subway ads spread the word underground, but TV spots couldn't make it on the air.

Safe sex is no sex on New York TV

"Don't Go Out Without Your Rubbers." So reads one of the seven posters created as part of a controversial AIDS education campaign kicked off by the New York City Department of Health last May. The campaign, produced on a *pro bono* basis by the advertising firm of Saatchi & Saatchi at a cost of \$1.5 million (underwritten in large part by the New York Life Insurance Co.), aroused a storm of controversy when it was initially released.

The reason? It candidly advocates condom use to limit the spread of AIDS in a city where almost 6,000 people have died of the virus and an estimated half-million people have been exposed to it.

Though the campaign is targeted at a predominately middle-class, heterosexual audience—health department officials say that the gay community has effectively educated itself—several TV spots have been dubbed into Spanish. The health department also commissioned two other agencies to produce ads that warn of AIDS risks to intravenous

drug users and encourage abstinence to avoid the virus.

There's no question that the Saatchi ads are candid. All of their three TV spots rest on the assumption that since people are not going to stop having sex, they had better get used to using condoms.

In one a young woman preparing for a date slips a condom into her purse as she is leaving home. In another a mother tells her child, off-camera, that "there's no way of me knowing who you're seeing or what you're doing, and I hate the idea of you doing things you're not ready for," but, she concludes, holding up a condom, "if you're doing anything, you use one of these."

The third spot depicts a young couple kissing. As things get heavier, the woman presents the man with a condom, at which point he backs off, saying, "You don't want me to wear this?" Sensing he won't change his mind, the woman tells him to "forget it" and walks out of the apartment, leaving him standing, perplexed, in the doorway.

To date the TV ads have gotten the cold shoulder from the New York media. Only a couple of stations, one owned by the city, will air the spots.

WABC has rejected all of them, citing its parent network's policy of not running condom advertisements. Both WCBS and WNBC are running the spot about the mother, but only after 11 p.m. The announcements advocating abstinence have predictably received wider play.

The reasons for this self-censorship are problematic. Supposedly responding to public values, TV executives program ignore the fact that far more sexually explicit material bombards the public in soap operas and other network fare. The TV programmers' decision is especially frustrating in the face of a survey on the Saatchi campaign that found that the percentage of those favoring condom use to prevent the spread of AIDS increased significantly after the ads were seen.

Moves such as the one being attempted in New York City will require a change in how the media has treated the disease. As Sam Friedman of the N.Y. Department of Health noted, for these campaigns to succeed "they must be bold, explicit and repeated." They should also mention those rubber things.

—Nat Moss

Suspicious neighbors? Call 1-800-CALL-SPY

Thanks to the Pentagon, Americans worried about the threat of espionage can get personally involved in the battle by calling a toll-free number. The U.S. Army's CALL-SPY Hotline officially commenced opera-

tions in April of 1987 and its director, William M. Dwyer, says the Army has had "considerable success with the program."

The hotline, which is run by the Army's Intelligence and Security Command, is directed primarily at Army personnel and civilian employees. According to Dwyer, however, many of the 19,000 calls logged so far have come from the general pub-

lic and members of the other services.

A flyer advertising the hotline urges people to "report your suspicions...to someone whose job it is to investigate suspected cases of espionage...someone who knows." The flyer warns that espionage is "an ever present threat" designed "to defeat you—in the next war." Its targets are "you, your family, the Army, and

our country."

The flyer gives examples of the telltale signs of spying. "Do you know someone," the flyer asks, "who is called at work by someone with a foreign accent who refuses to give a name or leave a message?" Other individuals to beware of include those who brag "about their involvement in 'James Bond' type activities," anyone who "always has a lot of unexplained money," and anyone who "makes frequent short trips out of country—unofficial—over long weekends—to places like Canada, or Central or South America."

Washington supporters target defectors for defeat

CHICAGO—Not since two Black Panther Party leaders were killed by Cook County police in a 1969 raid has the black community been so infuriated, community leaders say. Outrage over the Panther deaths led to a black voter backlash against the machine-backed state's attorney, Edward Hanrahan, who was ousted in 1972.

This year anger over the bitter mayoral succession, six days after Harold Washington's death, may cause a black uprising against blacks.

Ardent Washington supporters have kicked off what some describe as a crusade to dump black officeholders who want to rekindle machine politics or make deals with old-guard white colleagues who historically disenfranchised the black community.

For starters, organizers have targetted for defeat in March 15 Democratic ward committeeman races three aldermen and the brother of a fourth alderman who voted with the city council's white ethnic bloc on December 2 to elect Ald. Eugene Sawyer acting mayor. Sawyer also faces a challenge to his bid to keep his committeeman post, which he has held since 1968.

The splintering of the slim council majority gained by Washington in late 1986 after court-ordered redistricting has threatened the good government reform course charted by the late mayor, say community organizers. Whites and Hispanics in the 25-member voting bloc rallied behind Ald. Timothy Evans, while six of the 18 blacks strayed.

Originally, 11 black aldermen supported Sawyer, but community pressure peeled away five.

The pro-Evans and pro-Sawyer factions of black aldermen continue to feud. The rift showed up late last year, for example, in votes to strip community agencies of \$150,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant money. Ald. Anna Langford admits she wanted to strike back politically at community groups that mobilized grass-roots support for Evans. They should be forced to "dissipate this hatred" be-

Callers from the general public are advised to pass their suspicions directly to the FBI, but hotline personnel will forward information to the bureau if a caller prefers. The Army is well aware of the potential for abuse of the program, Dwyer says, and all calls are answered "by experienced and knowledgeable counter-intelligence personnel." Investigations go through three levels of review in order to ensure that no one is falsely charged due to an inaccurate reading of their travel or social life.

Dwyer claims that the hotline has been very effective but declines to

give details of any spy rings uncovered. He does say, however, that calls from personnel have led to the correction of poor security at a number of Army installations.

The Navy was certainly impressed by CALL-SPY. Shortly after the Army hotline began taking calls, the Navy established an anti-spy, toll-free number as well. The Navy hotline was initially geared specifically toward the investigation of spying by Marine guards. Now, however, the program is to be permanent and, like the Army's, general in scope.

—Ken Silverstein



Acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer

fore they get the money, she says.

Meanwhile, the movement that beat the Democratic machine by backing Bernard Carey for state's attorney in 1972, Ralph Metcalfe for U.S. representative in 1976 and Jane Byrne for mayor in 1979—and that sent Washington to office in 1983—has re-energized to help the "freedom" committeeman candidates. Block clubs have met, voter registration drives are underway and "political education" seminars have been set up to prepare not only for the March election but also a special mayoral election in 1989 and the 1991 aldermanic races.

Petitions are circulating in the wards represented by Ald. William Henry, who orchestrated Sawyer's 29-19 victory, and Ald. Sheneather Butler, another Sawyer backer, asking that they voluntarily resign their council posts. In Henry's ward, about 8,000 registered voters have signed the petition. Residents of Butler's ward have launched a campaign to change state law to allow for recall of public officials.

Community organizers claim Sawyer's black allies want to return the city to the old regime ridden with favoritism and cronyism. Butler, in an interview with *In These Times*, admitted a preference for patronage spoils.

"The way I hear it, the old machine was better for everyone," she said. "Back then, I guess through patronage, a lot of the aldermen were getting so many jobs and you could spread them throughout the community and make sure your campaign workers are employed...the people in your ward, the guys who pushed hard for you."

Declared Sawyer, who has pledged to carry on reform, "Patronage is dead, so that's not an issue now"—although Sawyer has moved to overturn the Shakman decree that bans political hiring in the city.

Sawyer told *In These Times* that he and his black council allies will work together on strategy for the committeeman contests. He said he will look to community activists who mobilized support for Evans to come over to Sawyer's side. "I think they have an obligation to help," he said, adding that experienced committeemen are needed to get out the vote in the presidential election.

Sawyer last month asked presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson to help dissipate the anger in the black community, which Sawyer blames on misinformation, manipulation and grief over Washington's death.

Butler and Ald. Marlene Carter both said the anger will make their committee campaigns more difficult, but they still believe Sawyer, the longest-serving black alderman, was the logical heir to Washington. Ald. Robert Shaw, whose twin brother, State Rep. William Shaw, is running for committeeman, claimed his constituents favor Sawyer over Evans. "I think I have one of the most intelligent communities in the city of Chicago," he said.

Henry is also targetted for defeat in the committee race, but failed to return phone calls before and after he had coronary-bypass surgery December 23. Langford is not seeking re-election as a committeeman.

Evans, who is touted as the candidate to defeat Sawyer in 1989, said in an interview that the reform movement is strong and stable. "Mayor Washington was the embodiment and the symbol of that movement, but actually the movement was larger than any one personality," he said.

"It's my view that the community commitment to reform is just as vibrant and waiting for a new vehicle."

—Marcia Nickow

Bush league

Percentage of registered voters, according to a *New York Times* poll, who have a favorable image of Dan Rather: 51. Percentage of registered voters who have a favorable opinion of George Bush: 31.

Killers of the Sea

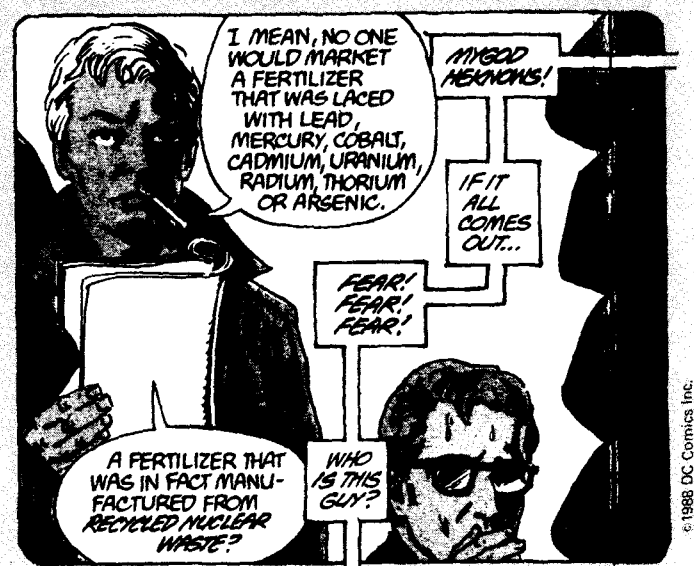
"Ask any mermaid you happen to see: Who kills dolphins? Chicken of the Sea!" That was the chant last month at Ralston Purina Company's stockholders meeting in St. Louis, Todd Steiner reports. Demonstrators, organized by the San Francisco-based Earth Island Institute, were protesting the killing of dolphins during tuna harvests for Ralston's Chicken of the Sea brand. The protesters were calling for a boycott of all Ralston Purina products. Earth Island's dolphin education coordinator, Carrie Stewart, characterized Ralston Purina as "one of the chief offenders in the dolphin slaughter. Ralston Purina could easily stop buying tuna caught by killing dolphins." In a press release issued after the annual meeting, the company admitted that 7 percent of their tuna was caught in the eastern tropical Pacific, the region where the dolphin killings are known to occur. As Stewart put it, "Why kill hundreds of thousands of dolphins to produce this insignificant amount of tuna?"

Football or blackballed?

When a panel of sportswriters last week made ex-NFL great Mike Ditka the first tight end to reach the Pro Football Hall of Fame, his election surprised several of today's best players. They thought that honor should have gone to John Mackey, who many football experts consider a better overall player. But Mackey was also president of the NFL Players Association from 1970-73, leading the union into the AFL-CIO, and was a key force in the first lawsuit the union won against the NFL in the battle for free agency—a fact the writers may not have been able to forget in this strike-torn year.

Bruises, but no scabs

The National Football League Players Association lost its strike, but can claim a certain poetic justice from the season's results. The Washington Redskins, who won the Super Bowl, did not have a single player cross the picket line during the strike. (The Redskins were one of only two scab-free teams.) The Los Angeles Raiders, a perennial playoff team that had a league-leading 26 players cross the picket line, lost two out of three games during the strike and five straight afterward and finished the season a dismal 5-10.



Cross-fertilized

The latest issue of *Swamp Thing*, a comic book known for ecological themes, features a fertilizer named "Rattinite" that is made from nuclear waste and contaminated with a variety of toxic metals. If this sounds familiar, you may have read *In These Times*' expose last August 19 on Kerr-McGee Corporation's unique method of nuclear waste disposal—turning the waste into a fertilizer known as raffinate and spreading it on local Oklahoma fields. The names are changed but we'd recognize those poisonous chemicals anywhere.