

Whales abused

by Caryn Colman

I would like to point out to the readers of this newspaper, something which they may have heard of, but may not believe to be a serious problem: that is, the depletion of dolphins and whales, drawing on to their extinction. (To clear up the confusion, porpoises are included in the dolphin family. They are just smaller in size than the dolphin.)

Studies are continually showing that cetaceans are perhaps the most intelligent mammals, questioning the position which they hold in relation to man. The question deals with our definition of intelligence, the way we mold the definition to fit ourselves in isolation from all other living and non-living things. Ask yourself what intelligence is. Cetaceans have enormous convoluted brains (not considering the relativity to their size), more similar to man's than the primates, and as intricate communicative and social structure. They echo-locate their environment. Sound waves are emitted from the mammal, which travel through the water until they hit something with a different density than the water's. Then the waves bounce back to the mammal, holding information about the object which is read. Besides cetaceans reading their external environment this way, they also read each other's internal environment through the sound waves which bounce off from the internal organs. Physical and emotional conditions cannot be hidden from each other and this is a major component in their complex social structure.

During the Pliocene period, drastic climactic changes affected Africa, where it is believed that man evolved. Man's ancestors consequently no longer had trees for shelter or the type of food they were used to. According to Elaine Morgan in her book **The Descent of Women** and the aquatic theory, man's ancestors went to sea out of fear. From the sea they could receive some protection from their predacious enemies as well as have a new source of food. To afford themselves the greatest protection from predators, man's ancestors walked upright in the sea, being unable to go further away from the shoreline than was possible on all fours. Water also offers much support to the body, making this very easy and natural. It is also questionable as to why man would become upright on land if four legs could afford him with greater speed and agility to escape predators. A supportive concept to Morgan's theory is that man is the only land animal with hairs growing in the direction in which water runs off the body. Another support is that no pre-human skeletons have yet been found from the Pliocene period, suggesting that the skeletons have been taken by the sea. There is a theory which states that at this point of man's evolution, some of man's ancestors came out of the sea in their changed form, while some stayed in the sea, changed as cetaceans.

Obviously, man is the cause of the endangerment of cetaceans because of his fishing and whaling industries. In the U.S.A., dolphins are incorporated into the method used to catch tuna, for human and pet consumption. For some reason, the tuna follow the dolphin, and so the fisherman herd the dolphin into enormous nets, while the tuna follow. The nets are then closed and the dolphins and tuna are trapped. Dolphins become mutilated when caught in the nets and often suffocate, not being able to surface for air. In spite of some attempts to save the trapped dolphins, the majority are killed. In the U.S.A. with its tuna industry rates as the second largest dolphin killer in the world.

The whales are in a much more serious state, commercially and biologically nearing extinction. There are cheap and available substitutes for all uses of whale products. Human consumption of whale meat is declining, but their killing goes on for pet food, chicken feed, cosmetics, margarine, lubricating oil and fertilizers. As each species becomes more 'fished out' the focus is shifted onto a more 'plentiful species'. Russia and Japan kill about 40% of the world's annual catch. It is fortunate that now Canada and the U.S. have placed a ban on the whaling industry.

The Dolphins:

President
Van Camp Sea Food Co.,
772 Tuna St.
Terminal Island
Ca., 90731

President
Pan Pacific
Terminal Island
Ca., 90731

President
Starkist Foods Inc.
Terminal Island
Ca., 90731

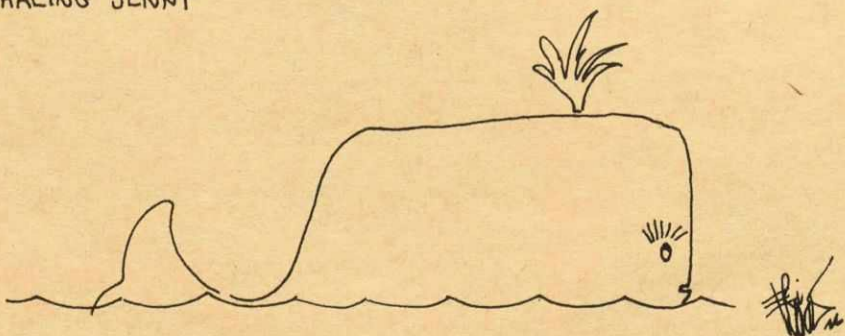
President
American Tuna Association
1 Tuna Lane
San Diego, Ca., 92101

The Whales:

Whitney Fidalgo Seafoods
Ralston Purina
Datsun
Chrysler Corp.
Chase Manhattan Bank
Honda
Hitachi
Toyota
General Motors
Westinghouse

An incredible book about cetaceans is **Mind in the Waters**, put out by Project Jonah, a non-profit organization dedicated to save and educate the public about cetaceans. The biggest problem, Project Jonah believes, is that in five years they will be out of existence because all the whales will be gone. The whales can be saved -- and in saving them we can create a model of international action that will demonstrate a way to save ourselves, and the rest of the earth we cherish.

WHALING JENNY



HARDY

AMIES

LONDON



...in a class by itself PURE VIRGIN WOOL

CONTEMPORARY EDITION - UNMISTAKABLY HARDY AMIES. HERE, FROM HIS LONDON COLLECTION, BRITISH DESIGNER HARDY AMIES PRESENTS THIS HANDSOME VESTED SUIT IN SUPERB IMPORTED WOOL. NEW STITCHED DETAILS APPEAR AT THE LAPELS AND THREE PATCH POCKETS OF THIS TWO BUTTON SUIT TAILORED WITH CENTRE VENT. ISN'T IT TIME TO EXHIBIT YOUR CONTEMPORARY GOOD TASTE IN A SUPERB SUIT TAILORED BY HARDY AMIES?



House of Rodney

Lord Nelson Arcade on Spring Garden Rd. — 429-4605 —
423-8807
— Scotia Square — 425-3677