

always triumphs over evil, truth over falsehood. No self-sacrifice is too great to help a friend in need." Hmm. We thought those were eternal values.

Tintin earns honest profits for Brussels's Hergé Foundation, which controls the rights on behalf of Remi's widow, Fanny, 58. With Tintin memorabilia stores flourishing globally, U.S. outlets are only a matter of time. — **Brian Dumaine**



Steve Lubetkin gets down to his homework.

HOW TO GET AN MBA WHILE COMMUTING

■ While his fellow passengers on the 6:45 A.M. bus to New York City from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, read their papers or doze, Wall Street communications executive and MBA candidate Steve Lubetkin, 35, does his homework on his **Dell Computer** laptop.

Like a growing number of managers who hope to improve their jobs—or save them—Lubetkin enrolled in an on-line education program. He plugs in his PC at home and sends his assignments to the University of Phoenix B-school.

Phoenix's 200 on-line MBA students pay an average \$11,800 for the 2½-year course, slightly more than paid by those attending one of the school's 22 cam-

pus. Other establishments offering similar on-line MBAs include Purdue University.

Each Phoenix student is expected to "attend" school five days a week. Professors monitor the students' written contributions to on-line class discussions, which can extend over several days.

Lubetkin never leaves home without his laptop. On a San Francisco business trip, he stayed up late to finish an essay on law and delivered it from his hotel room via modem. It was time judiciously spent: He got an A. — **R.T.**

SECESSION FEVER

■ The latest wrinkle in the lumpy, sour mood of the U.S. electorate is a rise in grass-roots movements to secede from various states

and cities. Says California assemblyman Stan Statham, a Republican who's leading a charge to split his state in three: "The fact is that our national and state governments have turned into more of a disease than a cure."

What's common among the secessionists is the feeling that

state and local governments are insensitive to their concerns. For instance, some citizens of the proposed Northern California believe the state's population of 31 million has made a single California ungovernable. In southwest Kansas, nine counties want out, saying they are shortchanged over school funding. Some in Coconut Grove, Florida, want to leave Miami for better police protection. Many Staten Islanders have long tried to quit New York City; they feel ignored.

Critics charge the secessionists are no more than rural or suburban folk seeking to distance themselves from urban problems. But the movement reflects a clamor for more accountability in the provision of local services. — **Suneel Ratan**

CRACK VS. HEROIN PRICE WARS

■ Crack is getting cheaper in New York City, where a vial of the stuff can now be purchased on the street for as little as \$1, down from \$4 a year ago.

Part of the reason for the price drop may be competition from a bumper Southeast Asian crop of opium, from which heroin is made. New York City is the principal entry point. The heroin has an unprecedented 55% average purity. Addicts

THESE THINGS GO FOR \$1 IN NEW YORK CITY



A roll of paper towels



A hot dog from a pushcart



A kiss Hershey's choice

... AND SO DOES THIS

A vial of crack

can snort the drug injecting it, removing it of contracting AIDS. Cracking a needle. Crack switching to heroin demand.

WHO GETS THE PENTAGON P

■ Though industries are about to be cost-conscious contractors like General Dynamics, Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop are reported to have better cash flows and higher returns to shareholders. So far, returns at General Dynamics that Berkshire Hathaway bought 14.9% of the company for an estimated \$1.5 billion.

In light of ongoing

Just two of the growing band of secessionists who want three Californias

