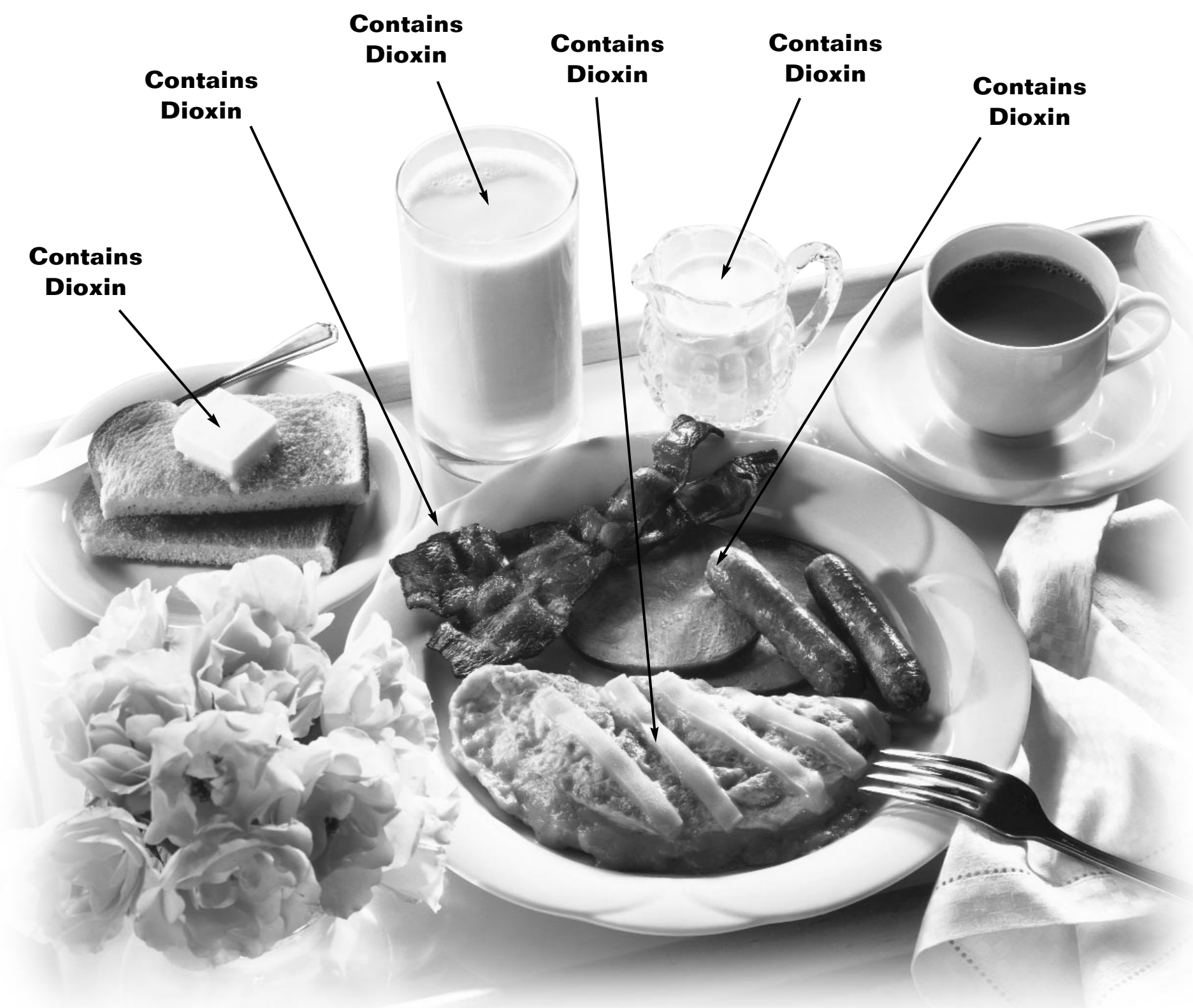


# Guess what you had for breakfast this morning?



A municipal incinerator in Connecticut . . . a paper mill in North Carolina . . . a medical waste incinerator in California. These are some of the ways dioxin, the most toxic man-made substance on earth, is produced. And you had some for breakfast. And you'll have some for lunch. And for dinner . . .

#### **Cancer, learning disabilities, birth defects.**

Dioxin is a byproduct of the manufacture and burning of products that contain chlorine. Plastics made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are a major culprit. So is paper that is bleached with chlorine. Incinerators across the country belch out this toxic substance every single day. Think of it as constant fallout. Airborne, dioxin falls on farms, settles on plants and works its way up the food chain. Dioxin also gets into water from industrial discharges. Dioxin is now pervasive in fish, beef, milk, poultry, pork and eggs. Infants get dioxin in breast milk.

Dioxin is a known cause of cancer. Learning

disabilities, birth defects, endometriosis and diabetes have all been linked to dioxin exposure. Dioxin weakens the human immune system and decreases the level of the male hormone testosterone.

After the tragedy at Love Canal, the products and practices that create dioxin should have been phased out to protect your health and the health of your family. Instead, the government has been taking its cue from industry giants like Dow and Weyerhaeuser, and the incinerator company Ogden-Martin, who don't want strong protections from dioxin to weaken their bottom line.

#### **You can't eat your way out of trouble.**

Carol Browner, Director of the EPA, is telling us the solution to the dioxin problem is to eat less fatty meat. According to EPA scientists, the risk of cancer from dioxin rises to 1 in 100 for people who eat a lot of meat. But the same studies show no matter what you eat, your risk of cancer from dioxin is 1 in 1,000. That's 270,000 people

getting cancer from dioxin. Cutting down on fatty meat won't solve the dioxin problem. Phasing out the products and practices that make dioxin will.

The EPA was poised to warn Americans about dioxin in 1994. But under industry pressure, the agency postponed their report. Now, six years later, that study is about to be released. It will show that dioxin is ten times more dangerous than was known in 1994.

#### **We can live very well without dioxin.**

The truth is there are ways to manufacture paper without chlorine. Many plastics are already being made that are safer than polyvinyl chloride. We can manage our waste without incineration.

Dioxin must be stopped at the source. Starting now.

This week, the following organizations are demanding that President Clinton and Vice President Gore create an Emergency Task Force to end the dioxin poisoning of Americans. Add your name at [www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org).

CENTER FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND JUSTICE

P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040 • (703)237-2249 • [www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org)

#### Sponsoring Organizations

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for the Earth, Missoula MT