

The Pampa News

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DECEMBER 24, 1991

TUESDAY

Bush prepared to recognize independence of CIS states

By GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States will extend diplomatic recognition to Russia as an independent country this week and support it for the Soviet Union's seat on the U.N. Security Council, a senior administration official said Monday night.

The United States will also recognize the independence of the other former Soviet republics that have broken away from the Soviet Union and formed a new Commonwealth of Independent States, the official said.

But it will establish full diplomatic relations with only about half of them at this juncture, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States began notifying its allies in Europe and elsewhere Monday of the diplomatic moves, which will be formally

announced later this week, the official said.

Word of the decision came after President Bush spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by telephone for nearly a half-hour Monday morning. He also conferred with Secretary of State James A. Baker III, just back from a mission to Russia and four other republics, and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Robert Strauss, the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, will become ambassador to Russia, the official said.

Bush has decided that Russia is what is known in legal parlance as "a continuation state" to the Soviet Union, the official said.

"That means basically you recognize the fact that they are taking over for the Soviet Union," the official said.

The announcement could come as early as Thursday, he indicated.

The United States is likely to offer diplomatic relations to the other republics that Baker visited and will judge rest of the breakaway republics based on their adherence to democracy principles, respect for international treaties and other principles that Baker has spelled out.

The official said the United States would recognize the independence of all the republics that have declared their independence from Moscow, "and then we would start immediate discussions on diplomatic relations."

Full diplomatic relations include the appointment of ambassadors and the opening of embassies in capital cities.

"About half of them we would move to assert diplomatic relations in a relatively short period of time, and about half we would wait until we've had a chance to examine their records and their purposes in light of the Baker criteria," the official said.

At the moment, Mikhail S. Gorbachev remains president of the Soviet Union, although the word in Moscow on Monday was that his resignation could come as early as Wednesday. The American official said that one factor holding up the announcement is that Washington is still awaiting "the final resolution of President Gorbachev's situation."

Bush left Monday evening by helicopter for Camp David, Md., and a three-day Christmas holiday. He turned aside questions about the Soviet situation, saying only, "I had a long talk with Yeltsin today. Merry Christmas to everybody."

Bush returns to the White House Thursday afternoon.

The decision to recognize Russian independence was "inevitable," the official said.

"It reflects the reality of the situation in the Soviet Union - the old Soviet Union," he said.

Of the 15 republics that once

comprised the Soviet Union, the United States thus far has extended diplomatic recognition only to the three Baltic states - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The Russian claim to the Security Council seat is based primarily on its role as the largest by far of the former Soviet republics. Among other assets, Russia also possesses the world's largest nuclear arsenal.

But there is no automatic guarantee that the Soviet seat on the Security Council will pass to Russia. U.S. officials said there is no precedent for the disintegration of a council member and no process for designating a successor.

The permanent members of the Security Council basically are an alliance of countries which prevailed in World War II - the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

What sets these countries apart from all others in the United Nations

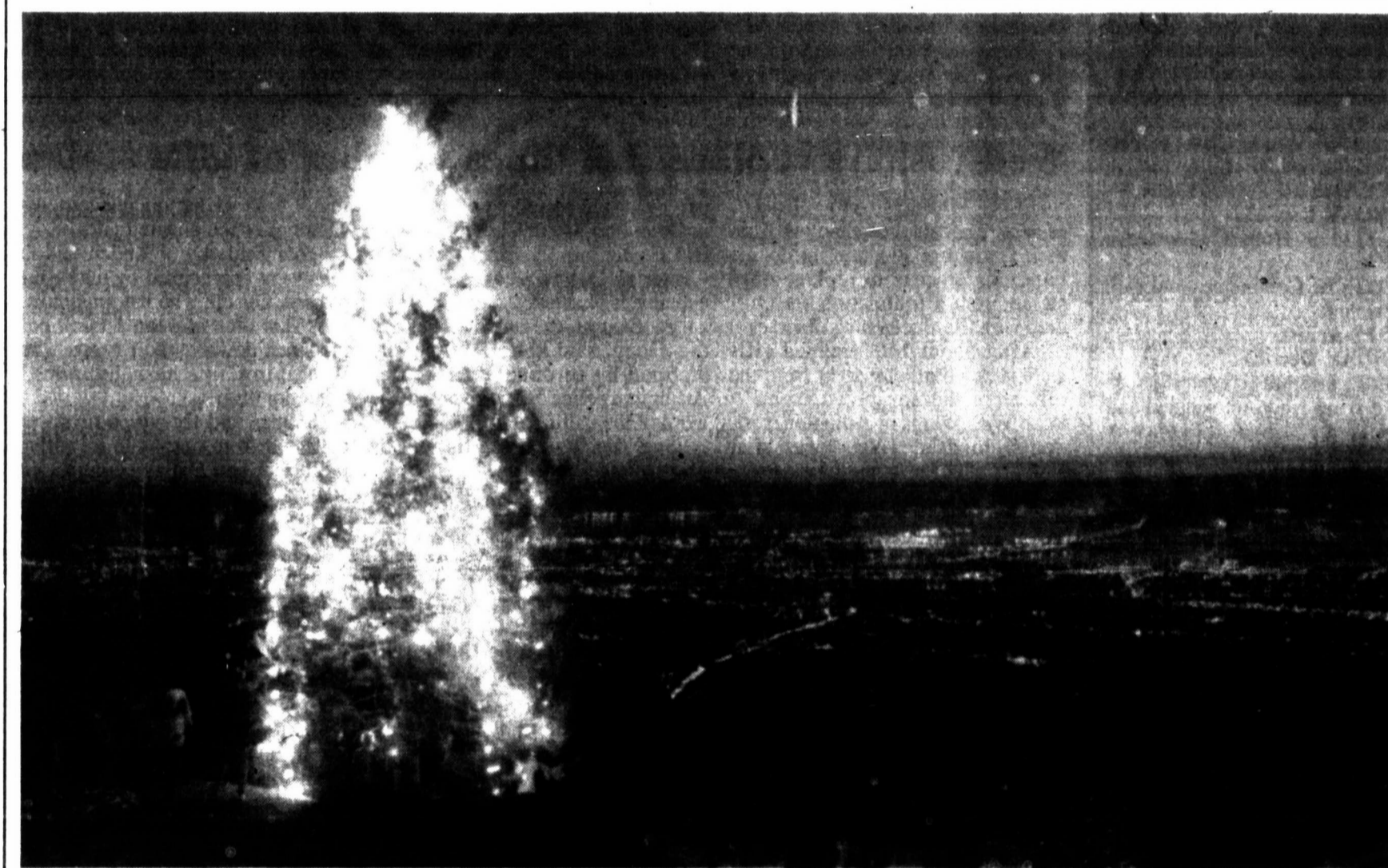
is that each has the power to veto Security Council resolutions. The other main body at the United Nations is the 166-member General Assembly, which has limited powers.

Third World countries complain that the structure drawn up almost half a century ago is obsolete and undemocratic. Some, including India, have said the demise of the Soviet Union presents a unique opportunity for reform.

Germany and Japan believe the way the United Nations is set up does not reflect the new realities of international power. Prostrate after World War II, the two have become economic giants.

But the Bush administration argues the existing system has worked well in recent years and should not be tampered with.

"The last thing we want to do is fix something that's not broken," the senior official said, asking not to be identified.



Neighbors from the fire-ravaged Oakland, Calif., hills gathered to light a Christmas tree on a scorched lot above their Grizzly Peaks neighborhood Monday. The

35-foot cedar was strung with Christmas lights as a sign of hope for the rebirth of the neighborhood. Its lights can be seen as far away as San Francisco.

Christmas tree signals rebirth of fire-ravaged neighborhood

By ELISABETH DUNHAM
Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Visible for miles as a sign of hope and rebirth in the scorched wasteland of the Oakland and Berkeley hills, a 35-foot Christmas tree has reunited neighbors left homeless and separated by the huge fire.

"We're trying to say that even in the heart of the destruction life comes back," said Steve Renten, whose home was one of the few spared in his neighborhood. "There's more of a community sense than I've felt up here in years."

Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris and Berkeley Mayor Lori Hancock plugged in the tree Monday as the sun set over the San Francisco Bay below. Scores of people - many who lost homes and others who still live in the charred area - watched.

"This was our neighborhood for many

years, and (the tree) is a symbol of rebirth," said Dave Williams, who attended the tree-lighting with his wife, Margaret.

The Williams' home once stood on the lot below where the cedar was planted Monday. The family, now renting in nearby Lafayette, has not decided whether to rebuild.

"It was all so unnecessary," Williams said. "I guess it's the season of Christmas and forgiveness, but we're still wondering how it could have happened."

The Oct. 20 fire killed 25 people, destroyed more than 3,000 homes and caused an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage.

Russ Aubry said the Christmas tree's 1,000 watts of light would be visible as far away as San Francisco. The tree is on his 1/2-acre plot - the highest in the neighborhood.

"We miss the lights of the homes below us," he said. "We look out for a couple of miles of

blackness and we know there are kids out there who aren't going to have Christmas trees in their own homes."

"It's a very lonely feeling to look out and know that 1,500 acres are empty," he said.

Aubry, who owns a car wash in Sacramento and is sales manager for an environmental firm in Benicia, said the fire damaged the siding and windows on his house and burned about 100 trees on his land.

He said the fire made the community stronger in many some ways. Neighbors who did not know each other before the disaster have become good friends, he said.

Aubry plans to light the tree - donated by a Sacramento tree nursery - year after year.

"It will stand out as a beacon on top of our hill," he said. "I like to think of it as a porch light to our neighborhood that says, 'We're coming back.'"

October sales tax collections down 25 percent for Pampa

By BETH MILLER
Staff Writer

The city of Pampa is down almost 25 percent with this month's sales tax rebate, according to figures released by the State Comptroller's Office.

The rebates represent taxes collected on October sales and reported in November by business filing monthly sales tax returns with the state.

Pampa received an \$81,151.30 check this month, compared to a \$107,633.75 check received last December, for a 24.6 percent decrease. Pampa's total rebate checks for the year are only slightly - 1.18 percent - below last year's figures. This year, the city received \$1,359,619.53, compared to \$1,375,895.67 last year.

The city of McLean is down 9.17 percent with this month's \$1,330.66 check compared to a \$1,465.03 check last December. McLean is down 4.88 percent this year, recording \$18,989.56 compared to \$19,964.01 last year.

The city of Lefors recorded no check this month. For the year, Lefors received \$6,392.23, a 12.45 percent increase over the \$5,684.28 received last year.

This month's checks sent to cities and counties throughout the state totaled \$1.4 billion, a 10 percent increase over the \$1.2 billion collected last year.

Shoppers pay the local sales taxes of up to 2 percent along with the state's 6 1/4 percent state sales tax when they make a taxable purchase. Merchants then send in taxes to the Comptroller's Office with their tax returns. The state keeps its share and returns to cities, counties and other taxing entities their portion of the local sales tax.

Area voters must approve all local sales taxes at the polls.

In Carson County, the city of Groom received a \$1,473.04 check this month, a decrease of 31.94 percent. Groom received total payments of \$24,470.18 this year, down 4.55 percent from last year's payments.

The city of Panhandle received a \$2,987.04 check this month, down 17.85 percent from last December. For the year, Panhandle is down 9.9

percent, receiving \$53,769.68 in payments this year.

The city of Skellytown is down 0.65 percent with its \$729.63 check this month. For the year, Skellytown received \$12,218.52, a decrease of 23 percent.

The city of White Deer is up 45.97 percent with its \$2,445.78 check this month and down 10.56 percent for the year, receiving \$34,704.54 this year.

In Hemphill County, the city of Canadian received a \$9,045.93 check this month, down 14.48 percent from last December's check. For the year, Canadian is up 11.2 percent with its payments this year of \$153,642.35.

In Roberts County, the city of Miami received a \$1,066.88 payment this month, up 9.94 percent from last December's payment. For the year, Miami is down .63 percent with its total payments of \$16,651.13.

In Wheeler County, the city of Mobeetie recorded no payment this month and is up 42.11 percent in total payments this year, recording \$3,228.02.

The city of Shamrock is up 22.69 percent with its December check of \$9,578.82. For the year, Shamrock is up 5.63 percent, having total payments of \$128,916.96.

The city of Wheeler is down 4.81 percent with this month's check of \$2,575.21. For the year, Wheeler is up 11.59 percent, recording total payments of \$50,702.52.



Forest Service releases proposed alternatives for Lake McClellan projects

By LARRY HOLLIS
Managing Editor

The U.S. Forest Service has released a range of alternatives for management needs and improvements to be considered for construction at Lake McClellan.

The proposed alternatives for the southwestern Gray County lake, including planned dredging operations, revision of motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle trails, and development of recreational facilities, will be available for public review and comment.

Black Kettle National Grassland District Ranger Reggie Blackwell said the Forest Service, which has supervision of the lake, is requesting public comments in order to accurately determine the impacts and effects of the proposed alternatives.

Copies of the 14-page detailed description of the proposed alternatives are available to the public at the Soil Conservation Service District Office located in the Gray County Annex Building on East

Frederic in Pampa. Copies also can be obtained by calling the Forest Service District Office in Cheyenne, Okla., at 1-405-497-2143.

Blackwell said all questions or comments regarding the alternatives should be addressed to the Forest Service District Ranger in Cheyenne at the above telephone number or by mail to USDA-Forest Service, Black Kettle National Grassland, Route 1 Box 55-B, Cheyenne, OK 73628.

All comments are requested to be submitted by Jan. 31, 1992.

Blackwell said the management alternatives focus on all current recreational uses at Lake McClellan, such as fishing, camping, boating, water skiing, motorcycle/ATV riding, swimming, hiking and other related activities.

Recreational facility construction alternatives addressed in the proposals under consideration include lakebed dredging, reconstruction of existing recreation sites, construction of recreational vehicle type camping spaces, allowing development of an RV park on a permit-concessionaire

basis, new construction or remodeling of the concession office/store and related housing, an interpretive museum development and construction of an amphitheater area.

Blackwell said other items are also addressed in the summary of the alternatives, "too numerous and detailed to summarize here."

He did provide a brief summary of two of the more significant management issues addressed in the study: lakebed dredging and motorcycle/ATV riding.

The lakebed dredging has been a concern for the lake for the past couple of decades, due to siltation of the lake raising the bottom and lowering the water depth. Less water also now flows into the lake from a reduction in the watershed runoff due to changes in agricultural practices, with more water remaining on farm and ranchlands, and less use of irrigation furrows.

The Forest Service has proposed the following lakebed dredging alternatives:

1. Dredging a 20-acre pool near the dam, five feet deeper than exist-

ing - \$325,000.

2. Dredging a 30-acre pool near the dam, five to 10 feet deeper than existing - \$650,000.

3. Same as alternative 1, but also add 2,900 feet of dredged shoreline channels - \$650,000 total cost.

4. Same as alternative 2, but also extensive dredging of shoreline and other channels - \$1.2 million.

Under the motorcycle/ATV riding alternatives, the following have been proposed for consideration:

1. Allowing use in the areas of current use, but closing off all trails causing environmental damage. Limit riding to existing trails only. No new trails would be built.

2. Same as alternative 1, except some short sections of new trail would be built to connect existing trails that will be dead-ended to prevent environmental damage.

3. Allowing use in the areas of current use, but closing off all trail sections with a grade in excess of 10 percent. Building some short sections of new trail where grade does not exceed 10 percent.

"Again, this is just a brief summary of the proposed alternatives for two of the uses and improvements at Lake McClellan," Blackwell said. "Alternatives for all uses and new improvements are presented in detail in the document available to the public."

Blackwell said the Forest Service will appreciate review and comments on all the alternatives from the public.

"Your comments will be very helpful in the determination of the best management alternatives for Lake McClellan," he said.

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**VOL. 84,
NO. 223,
16 PAGES**

**A FREEDOM
NEWSPAPER**

You're never too old ...



Mary Bayless, a patient in Coronado Hospital, smiles as she receives a surprise visit Saturday from Santa Claus, who was passing out candy canes to patients and staff members. Children aren't the only ones who enjoy a visit and candy presented by the jolly old elf during the Christmas holiday season. Bringing the Christmas spirit for Santa is Ron Moon, who has spent the past five years playing St. Nick for nursing homes and the hospital.

(Staff photo by Larry Hollis)

Benchmark rate set below current charges

AUSTIN (AP) — Insurance companies and consumer advocates praised a decision on new property insurance rates set by the State Board of Insurance.

The Insurance Board on Monday set a benchmark rate for homeowners' insurance policies 5 percent below the current maximum rate that regulated companies can charge.

Under the new rates, insurers could charge up to 25 percent more than the benchmark rate, or as much as 30 percent below.

"From now on, unlike in the past, the companies are going to have to fully justify what they charge and the board and the consumers will have a far better sense of whether rates are fair," said Board Chairwoman Claire Koriath.

"Our decision gives Texans the rate stability they so desperately need in these hard economic times," she said.

The rates go into effect March 1.

"What this means for individual homeowners is that they should use the stabilized market to shop around for the best rates possible," said Amy Johnson, chief of the Office of Public Insurance Counsel.

"The board's action stabilizes the homeowners' insurance market for Texas, preventing the range of

homeowners' insurance prices from moving upward as the industry had proposed," she said.

Under a request by State Farm Insurance Cos., the benchmark would have increased 16.5 percent, and companies could have deviated as much as 30 percent more or 30 percent less.

But the Insurance Board went along with OPIC on setting a benchmark rate. A 5 percent reduction from current rates would drop the cost of a typical policy on a \$100,000 home in the Austin area from \$641 per year to \$609 annually, OPIC stated.

Jerry Johns, president of Southwestern Insurance Information Service, said the wide range of allowable rates should produce more competition that may keep companies from charging the upper end of the allowable rates.

"Hopefully consumers will see very little impact on the price that they pay for insurance under the new system," Johns said.

Under the new rating system approved by lawmakers earlier this year, the benchmark rate is only a starting point. The new law provides for insurance companies to charge rates within an approved range of the benchmark without getting a specific OK from the board.

Searchers find 14th victim of flooding

By The Associated Press

Continued Texas flooding kept many away from their homes and snarled traffic for Christmas travelers today as the search continued for three more victims of storms blamed for 14 deaths and millions of dollars in damage.

Travelers between Dallas and Houston faced hour-long delays after the Texas Department of Public Safety kept a 20-mile section of Interstate 45 closed in Freestone and Navarro counties.

Three U.S. and three state highways remained closed along with many farm-to-market roads in the eastern third of Texas after five days of torrential rains.

"The damages throughout Central and North Texas, along with areas along the Texas Gulf coast, are indeed heavy. It is important ... to help residents and businesses begin the recovery process," said U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm.

He asked President Bush on Monday to move quickly to approve federal disaster money for counties hit by the flooding.

Gov. Ann Richards, who surveyed Central Texas damage by air, instructed the state Division of Emergency Management to prepare a request for federal disaster relief for Bastrop and Travis counties.

Authorities on Monday found an Austin teenager's body, bringing to 14 the number of flood-related deaths.

Three others, including an infant, were missing.

Officials in Hays County found the body of Joy Maria Dewever Monday near Bear Creek. Her body was found about 100 yards from her car. Ms. Dewever also used the name Suzanna Drolet as an alias, DPS spokeswoman Lauren Chernow said.

Milam County officials were still searching for a man who was swept into Alligator Creek north of Austin over the weekend.

Police divers were searching White Oak Bayou in Houston for a man who fell into the bayou Saturday night, while Edwards County officials

were searching for a baby missing in floodwaters from Little Hackberry Creek near Barksdale, about 100 miles west of San Antonio.

Among the 14 flooding deaths were four traffic fatalities.

A fourth person had been counted among the missing because an unidentified man was seen clinging to a fence in Fort Worth after a car drove around a barricade Friday.

Fire department spokesman Butch Hall said authorities discontinued the search because they believe the man may have climbed to safety on his own.

Officials in Bastrop County said 72 homes were submerged when Colorado River swept over it banks during the weekend. The river's level at Bastrop was falling Monday after cresting Sunday at 36.38 feet, the National Weather Service said.

"We have heard that the river would stay above 30 feet for the next three days," said a sheriff's official who would not be identified. "No one's gone home yet."

Residents of Doty River Estates, Pecan Shores, Hidden Shores, Hasler River Shores, River Wood Acres and Lazy River Acres were hard-hit by flooding, authorities said.

But the Guadalupe River was still rising, prompting Victoria authorities to advise 316 residents of three low-lying areas to evacuate. Numerous roads in Victoria and Dewitt counties of South Texas were closed by high water.

About 200 people have been evacuated from the Thomaston community 10 miles north of Victoria, authorities said.

"We still have four roads closed. People are wondering if, when they get into town, we can guarantee that they can get home again. We can't do that," said an unidentified Victoria County sheriff's officer.

Officials predicted the Guadalupe would crest in Victoria Thursday morning at 30 feet, 9 inches less than the record flooding. The river's normal depth is 5.4 to 5.6 feet.

Travis County Judge Bill Aleshire said damages in Austin and Travis County would exceed

\$20 million.

"I think the message that we need to send out is that we need to be very careful the next two or five days, in fact the next two or three weeks," said Austin Mayor Bruce Todd. "We need to not be lulled by the sunshine you have in front of you today that you see up in the skies."

"If it starts raining, the ground is still supersaturated ... and the water can do unusual things right now."

Lake Travis, where a number of homes had been covered by high water, was expected to peak at 711 feet about noon Wednesday, officials said. The previous record of 707.3 feet was set May 18, 1957.

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Thank You God For:
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Viewpoints



The Pampa News

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Louise Fletcher
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Price of liberty is a worthy cost

It is a tribute to the stubborn if sometimes absent-minded devotion of most Americans to the principles that made this country great that the Bill of Rights, after 200 years, still has the occasional ability to thwart an outrage. It certainly isn't because of devotion to their principles by our rulers.

About the only freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights that doesn't face virtual daily threats of erosion is the Third Amendment, guaranteeing that soldiers won't be quartered in private homes in peacetime. And if circumstances changed and some politicians considered that desirable, you can be sure they would rev up the propaganda.

We owe the Bill of Rights largely to the persistence of two Virginians, George Mason and James Madison. As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Mason was not persuaded by the argument that since the new government had only the powers specifically delegated to it, it could pose no real threat to the individual rights and personal freedoms of the people. He decided to oppose ratification.

As state governments debated the new Constitution, it became apparent it would pass only if a Bill of Rights were included. Mason's Declaration of Rights in the Virginia constitution, reworked by Madison, became the basis for the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, now known as the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights is built around the understanding that different aspects of human liberty are interrelated, and that governments of whatever character, even — perhaps especially — those with good intentions, seek to increase their power at the expense of the people's liberties. Supporters of the Bill of Rights believed that certain human rights took precedence over the pretensions of government, that government was legitimate only insofar as it respected the rights to life, liberty and property.

In *Life* magazine's special issue on the Bill of Rights, we are assured that no sophisticated person believes the first 10 amendments are to be taken absolutely literally. While the tone is respectful, much emphasis is placed on how difficult it is to maintain personal liberty in our complex, sophisticated, diverse, modern society. That could be a reflection of today's conventional wisdom.

Too bad. It would be nice if more Americans understood how respect for individual rights has made possible our complex, diverse society, and that many of the problems besetting society could be alleviated, if not solved once and for all, through more consistent respect for certain fundamental rights and liberties.

America's experience with the Bill of Rights — and to a great degree with the entire Constitution — is an object lesson in how well-written guarantees of individual liberties, embedded in supposedly sacred founding documents, work in practice. In short, they can help, but as our founders also understood, the true price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

The strictly limited powers of the central government began to be expanded almost from the first day of ratification.

Documents written by wise patriarchs two centuries ago help little unless the principles they embody are also inscribed on our hearts and understood by our minds. That can't be accomplished simply by having good thoughts on an anniversary. We need constant alertness to the dangers to our own rights and the rights of others, and an awareness that the most significant and pervasive threat to those rights is government.

With that awareness, the Bill of Rights might help to protect our liberties for another 200 years. Without it, they will eventually be viewed as a quaint document drawn up by well-meaning but naive men who didn't understand the imperatives of power.

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Thought for the day

Ah, friends, dear friends, as years go on and heads get gray, how fast the guests do go!
Touch hands, touch hands, with those that stay.
Strong hands to weak, old hands to young, around the Christmas board, touch hands!
The false forget, the foe forgive, for every guest will go and every fire burn low and cabin empty stand.
Forget, forgive, for who may say that Christmas day may ever come to host or guest again.
Touch hands.
"John Norton's Vagabond"
—William Henry Harrison Murray
(1840-1904)

Right to medical care? No

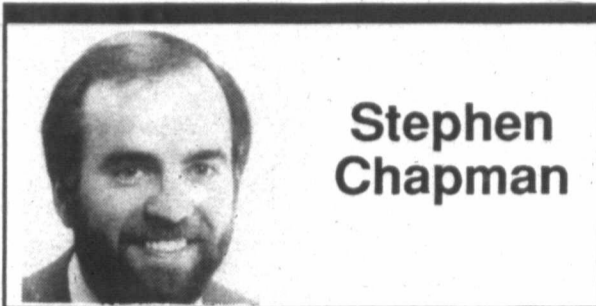
When an unknown named Harris Wofford upset former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh in the U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania, experts ascribed the victory largely to his advocacy of national health insurance, and the success of that position to one particularly deft commercial. Standing in a hospital, the candidate said the Constitution guarantees criminals the right to a lawyer. "If criminals have the right to a lawyer," Wofford continued, "I think working Americans have the right to a doctor."

This is a non sequitur, but an exceedingly clever one. It makes criminals look privileged and honest people look deprived, while suggesting that our health care problems can be remedied by simply recognizing that medical treatment is a right.

But there is no logic in this reasoning. You could use Wofford's formulation to justify almost anything. If criminals have the right to a lawyer, working Americans have the right to (take your pick) affordable child care, a college education, safe streets, clean air, paid parental leave, an honest Congress — the list is endless, and senseless. It's about as illuminating as the old line that "if we can put a man on the moon, we should be able to..."

Criminal suspects — not criminals, as Wofford put it — have the right to a lawyer only because of the unique circumstances in which they find themselves — in the custody of the state, deprived of their normal liberty, perhaps prevented from earning a living, facing imprisonment or execution.

The government has a duty to furnish a lawyer to poor defendants (not all defendants) because the government has put them in jeopardy. Asked why, if criminals have a right to lawyer, working Americans don't have a right to a doctor, IIT-Kent law professor Randy Barnett replies: "Because the government didn't make you sick." If the government



Stephen Chapman

did cause your illness, it would be obligated to compensate you.

We provide criminal suspects with lawyers mainly to assure that they aren't put in prison unjustly. Working Americans in need of a doctor are in no such danger. But it's tempting to say that because they want and need medical care, they have a right to it.

This is an error. One reason is that it perverts the understanding of rights enshrined in the Constitution, which are summarized as "life, liberty and property." This view essentially means the government is obligated not to do certain things to you, not that it is obligated to do anything for you.

The First Amendment guarantee to freedom of the press means it may not stop you from writing and publishing whatever you want, not that it must give you a printing press.

A right to medical care, on the other hand, means the government has to provide you with things that are far more expensive than a printing press. It is blank check drawn on the bank accounts of the taxpayers at large. Instead of protecting your liberty and property, as rights are meant to do, this one lets you infringe on the liberty and property of others.

If you exercise your right to press freedom, you

impose no burden on anyone who doesn't want to pay to read your newspaper. If you exercise your right to medical care, you may stick your neighbors with hundreds of thousands of dollars in bills they have to cover out of their own earnings.

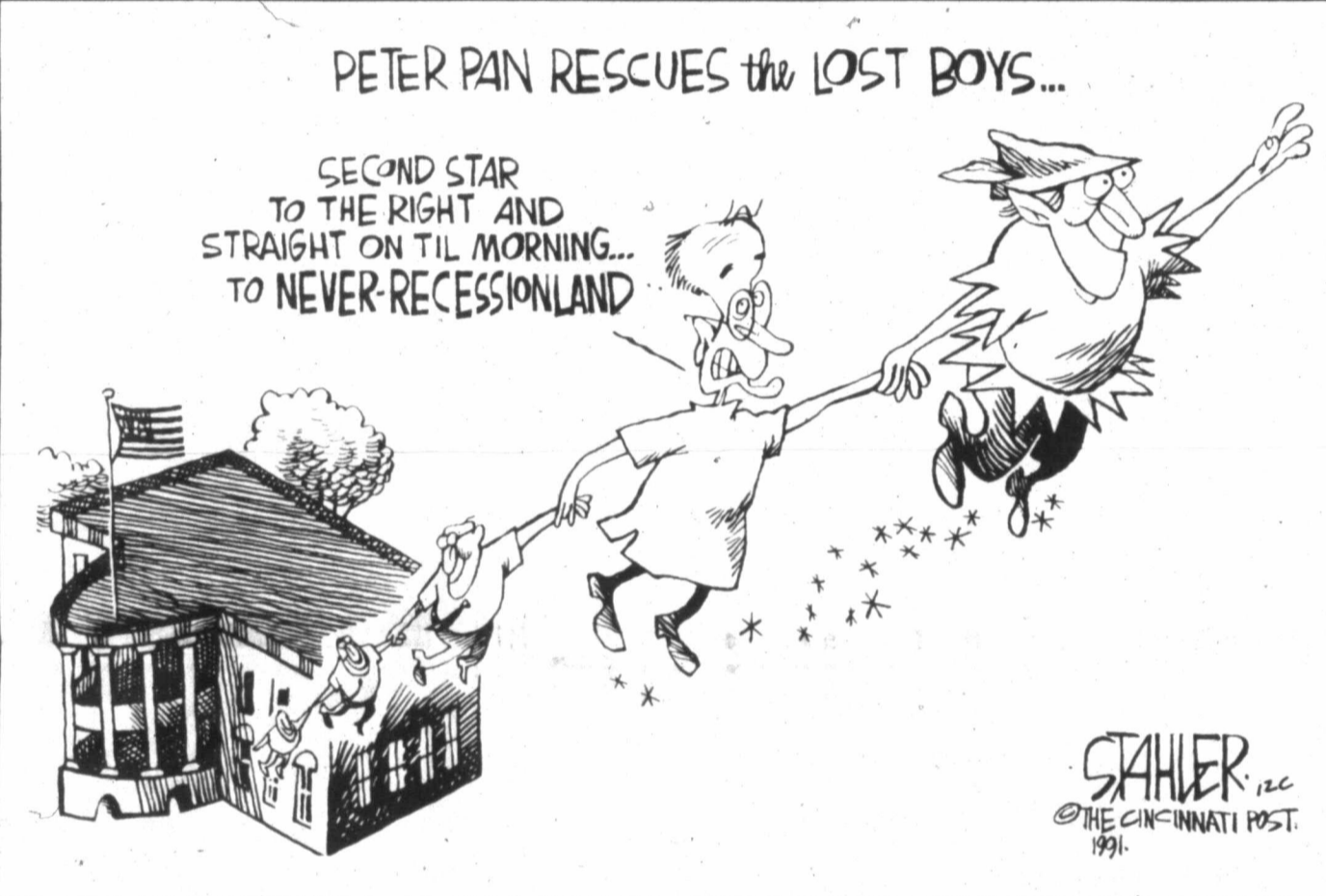
It may be argued that medical care is a right because it is a matter of life and death. Most medical care isn't about any such thing. People may be uncomfortable or unhappy if they can't get treated for slipped discs, ear infections, skin rashes, enlarged prostates or arthritic knees. But they won't die.

When it comes to true emergencies, we as a society do try to assure that no one goes without medical services, which is why we have public hospitals, as well as Medicaid and Medicare. But trying to assure that no one dies for lack of treatment is a long way from conferring a fundamental right to medical care.

It could be said that, in practice, we do recognize some sort of right to food, housing and other necessities, which is why we have welfare programs. The right being talked about here, however, is a far more extreme concept.

It means not that people have a right to a certain minimum level of health care at public expense if they can't afford it, but that they have a right to the best treatment they can find at public expense even if they can afford it. Not even the most radical advocate for the homeless argues that they have the right to the best housing available, or that the government has a duty to provide exactly the same housing, free, to everyone.

Most proposed remedies for our health care problems are complicated, imperfect and frustrating. Recognizing a right to medical care, which is refreshingly free of these flaws, has the sole defect of being wrong.



Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 1991. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 24, 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium. (However, because of the slowness of communications at the time, both nations fought the Battle of New Orleans the following month.)

On this date:
In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Aida* had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1968, the Apollo VIII astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis as part of a Christmas Eve television broadcast to Earth.

Let's put condoms on the TV

Give me one good reason why companies who manufacture condoms can't advertise them on television.

I said a good reason. There's the old, "If condoms are advertised on television, it will encourage young people to have sex."

Young people don't need any encouragement to have sex. They have it, or want to, anyway, because of hormones, natural desires and the fact older people don't want them to do it.

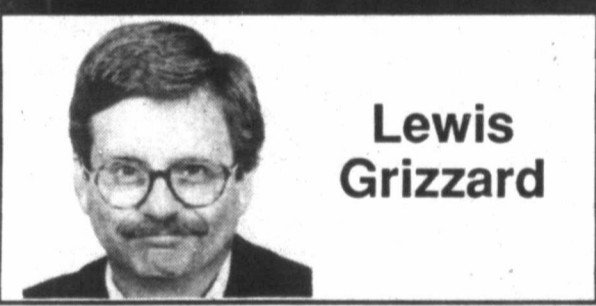
Just about everything that's really fun is forbidden by somebody. You don't think kids don't know what's going on?

Two third grade boys are walking down the street. One says, "I found a condom on the patio last night."

And the other boy responds, "What's a patio?" AIDS is on the front page every day. Magic Johnson said he was HIV positive, because he had unprotected sex. He didn't wear a condom, is what he meant.

"A tisket, a tasket/a condom or a casket." That's not supposed to amuse you. That's supposed to frighten you.

And we want to keep this product a secret? We don't want everybody to know about it? Of course we do.



Lewis Grizzard

Magic Johnson could do the first televised condom commercial: "If I had used a Trojan, I'd still be with the Lakers."

Put that on television. People are sometimes slow reacting to what they read. But they see it on the tube and it sinks in.

You put a headline on the front page of the paper, "THE WORLD ENDS AT THREE O'CLOCK," and half the readers will miss it because they go straight to the sports section.

You could sell ethics to Saddam Hussein if you put it on television.

And look what is already being advertised on television. My God, some of the things they advertise on prime time, I'd be embarrassed to talk about in the boys' locker room.

How about all those feminine products? Have

you seen the commercial where the mother and daughter are walking along the beach? The daughter, who appears to be about 14, all of a sudden looks up at her mother and asks, "Mom, do you douche?"

I didn't make that up. It's on television. Then there are all those sprays and pads, both maxi and mini, and the other day I turned on my television and saw a woman talking about some sort of medication for yeast infections. Please.

And we're worried about putting condom commercials on television?

And then there are all those products guaranteed to clear up diarrhea or bring an end to the horrid fate that is constipation.

And let us not forget hemorrhoids. There must be an epidemic in this country. Every time I turn on the television there is a hemorrhoid commercial.

So bring on the condoms. At least they've got to do with sex, which is supposed to be a pleasurable thing, unlike infections and problems of the bowels.

And don't they already have female contraceptive commercials? What is this? Blatant sexism? If you can sell foam and sponges, what's so different about sending condoms into American living rooms?

Advertise them. Hand them out on the streets and in the classrooms if necessary. Ignore the blue noses. Save lives.

Food aid for Soviets makes sense

By SARAH OVERSTREET

I don't do a lot of writing on foreign policy because it simply isn't my area of expertise. The issues involved in international affairs are usually immensely complex, and someone who isn't schooled in their intricacies can't form a clear picture. Most times even the experts can't come to a consensus.

Yet there are a few situations that come into clear focus easily, even to the casual observer. One is the crisis in the Soviet Union now: After spending bazillions of dollars on a 45-year Cold War aimed at protecting the West from the dangers of Soviet Communism, Soviet Communism has collapsed and they are finally, stunningly, reaching toward democracy as a means to save themselves. Now instead of threatening to use their power to crush us, the Soviets are in danger of starving. And instead of our being in peril of them crushing us, we are in peril that they in their desper-

ation will turn to others of our enemies for help.

Now the logical mind would assume that having wanted so long for them to embrace our philosophies of government, and having dumped so much money down the rat hole that was supposed to keep them contained by spying and building bigger arsenals, that when they finally saw that Communism didn't work and asked us to help them engage in free enterprise, we'd be overjoyed. Logic would dictate that this was a much better deal than the one we had before, and that money to help them establish a democracy was much better spent than the funds we had earmarked for a continuing cold war.

In fact, if during the time we were learning how to duck and cover and follow the yellow signs to the school bomb shelters you had told me that someday the Soviet Union would just figure out that democracy was better government, I'd have thought you'd had your knees up under your head

too long. And if you told me that when the Soviets did reach out toward democracy, that we'd lie here like stumps and through our inaction leave them vulnerable to any despot who could get hands on Soviet weapons for the price of enough food to keep the Soviet people alive, I'd have said you were crazy.

Yet that's just exactly what we're doing. The Soviets are facing starvation, and starving people can get real fearful and hard to get along with. Fascism is already getting a toehold among some Soviet voters, and a few unfortunate turns of events and their whole nuclear arsenal is up for grabs. Most of our legislators are afraid to act lest they be accused of giving treats to the prodigal son instead of the faithful American siblings. Our president has proposed a plan that will give the Soviets loans they probably can't pay off to buy food they won't be able get to people's mouths, judging by their past food distribution fiascoes. And the food they're sending is

feed grain, animal food. How soon can that food feed Soviet people?

We don't have the money to single-handedly solve the Soviet Union's problems, but we don't have the leisure to do nothing. Some experts suggest a feverish forging of a cooperative aid plan by the Western alliance, which is strong, in part, because of the Marshall Plan. Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., has suggested a program that would send food we and the Europeans have already bought, including leftovers from the Persian Gulf War and \$165 million already allocated by President Bush. To distribute the food, he urges that U.S. forces do what they did for the Kurds and use existing Pentagon funds to finance it. Those forces could also help Soviet soldiers destroy Soviet nuclear weapons in the sweep, he says.

Whatever we do, we must do it and do it soon. Too much rests on it, including the personal safety we fought the Cold War to preserve.

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How to make a Merry Christmas By Lane and Miller



Mexican government expects to make \$10 billion from sale of banks

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican government expects to make about \$10 billion from the sale of 18 state-owned banks in 1991 and 1992, news reports said Monday.

Nine banks have already been sold and nine more on the auction block as part of the government's drive to divest itself of a wide range of business enterprises.

In addition to banks, which were nationalized in 1982, the government has sold hotels, airlines, mines,

sugar mills, the telephone company and more.

The largest bank sale to date was the sale of Banamex for \$3.18 billion. The 24th largest bank in the world, Banamex had assets of about \$27 billion, 8.4 million customers, more than 31,000 employees and 725 branches.

Monday's news reports quoted Treasury Department officials as saying the first nine banks were sold for a total of more than \$7 billion.

The buyers, however, have actually paid the government only about half that sum to date.

Much of the money the government has made from privatization has gone into a massive program of social spending called Solidarity.

Solidarity's popularity is credited with helping the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party win a sweeping majority in August midterm elections. The party has ruled Mexico for 62 years.

Arrest of DJs prompts sex-and-drug investigations

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The arrest of two disc jockeys on drug and sex charges reportedly has led to an investigation of the possibility a homosexual ring preying on teenagers has operated out of several Florida radio stations.

Detectives in Hollywood and Plantation are checking reports that disc jockeys used personal appearances for their stations to pick up boys for sex, the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel reported.

The investigation was sparked by the November arrests of Bill Tanner on drug charges and G. Michael McKay on charges of sodomizing a boy he allegedly had drugged. Both men pleaded innocent and have since left WPOW-FM, the top-rated South Florida teen-oriented dance music station.

The investigation has since widened to include other personnel at stations in the area, detectives said.

"This is a very big investigation. These guys worked at many other stations and know other station personnel. We are running down all leads," Hollywood Police Detective Curtiss Navarro said.

More than 20 people have been questioned. Police have combed station personnel records to establish relationships between various broadcasters, said Greg Reed, general manager of WPOW.

The arrests came after a boy told Hollywood police he was present at a homosexual orgy at McKay's home in September. The boy said Tanner also was present. At least one other boy told detectives of sex parties at McKay's, police said.



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Republicans looking forward to redistricting victories for new seats

By JIM DRINKARD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Chicago, one newly drawn congressional district is dubbed "the earmuff." Texas has one that's shaped like a tarantula crawling over Dallas. A new black-majority district in Virginia reaches out with thin tentacles, held together in some places by no more than a riverbed.

All are modern versions of the 1812 Massachusetts district that gave rise to the word gerrymander. All are part of the messy decennial process of redrawing America's political map to keep up with population shifts revealed by the census.

These days, computer wizards stare at oversized color screens and move census tracts into or out of a district, while a scoreboard keeps a running tabulation of the results. Both political parties are out to create districts more likely to vote their way.

With the process about halfway complete, Republicans appear to be making modest gains in the numbers of House seats they can hope to capture in the 1992 elections.

"I think we can't help but end up better off than in the past 10 years," said Spencer Abraham, co-chairman of the GOP House campaign committee.

A decade ago, state legislatures produced "uniformly Democratic

plans" that squeezed Republican voters into the smallest possible number of congressional districts, Abraham contended in an interview last week.

"We're going to do better" this year, he said, as legislatures and courts struggle to redraw the congressional lines. "At this point things are promising," he said.

The GOP has so far scored major gains in Illinois and apparently in California, and is watching gleefully as states in the Midwest and Northeast lose seats, primarily in urban Democratic territory.

Democrats outnumber Republicans in the House by 102 members, 268-166. Abraham hopes redistricting can help the GOP mount 100 or more competitive races in 1992, without which a House majority will seem a more distant prospect than ever.

But Democrats have at least part-

ly offset their redistricting losses with likely pickups in Texas, Virginia and North Carolina. The creation of as many as 20 new black- or Hispanic-majority districts nationwide also helps, said Rep. Martin Frost, D-Texas, who keeps an eye on remapping for his party.

Republicans had seen the minority districts as a potential bonanza because Democratic votes would be concentrated in fewer districts, leaving more territory open for the GOP. That doesn't seem to be happening, Frost said.

"When this is all said and done, we might lose five or 10 seats, but no more than that," he said. "It's an unsettled year. So far we've done very well."

Here's where the action has been so far in the House remapping season:

— In California, the nation's biggest delegation gets even bigger

with seven new seats. For the first time since the 1950s, Republicans may wrest a majority of the expanded 52 seats.

California's growth has occurred primarily in GOP-dominated suburban areas, and the new map could give the Republicans as many as eight new seats in addition to the 19 districts they now hold. But the chance could be squandered by intraparty squabbling between incumbents who want to represent the same districts. The California plan is expected to become final in January.

— In Illinois, a panel of three federal judges, all Republicans, approved a map that takes the state's two lost seats from Democrats. Two Democratic incumbents, Reps. Marty Russo and William Lipinski, are forced to face off in the same district. Democrat Frank Annunzio is being forced into retirement. And

the district of Democrat Glenn Poshard was eliminated.

— In Texas, the legislature approved a plan Democrats see as a major victory. The new map includes one new black district — the spider-like creation in Dallas — and two new Hispanic districts, and preserves relative safety for incumbents. It adds up to a likely three-seat gain for the Democrats. But the plan still faces court battles, and a special legislative session has been called to revise the redistricting plan.

— In West Virginia, the state's four-member delegation — all Democrats — had to be pared by one, setting off an inside game in which three colleagues ganged up on Rep. Harley Staggers Jr. to deal him out of the running. "Those are the tough ones," Frost said of the game of political musical chairs. Similar scenarios are occurring in Massachusetts, New York, Michigan,

New Jersey and Ohio.

Democrats attribute some of their losses in reapportionment to another change in the political landscape: the growth of Republicans in the federal judiciary, stemming from a decade of GOP control of the White House.

When a plan can't be agreed on by a state's legislature and governor, it often is thrown to the courts.

Potentially the biggest court action is taking place in Montana, where the 50-year-old formula used to allocate seats among states is being challenged.

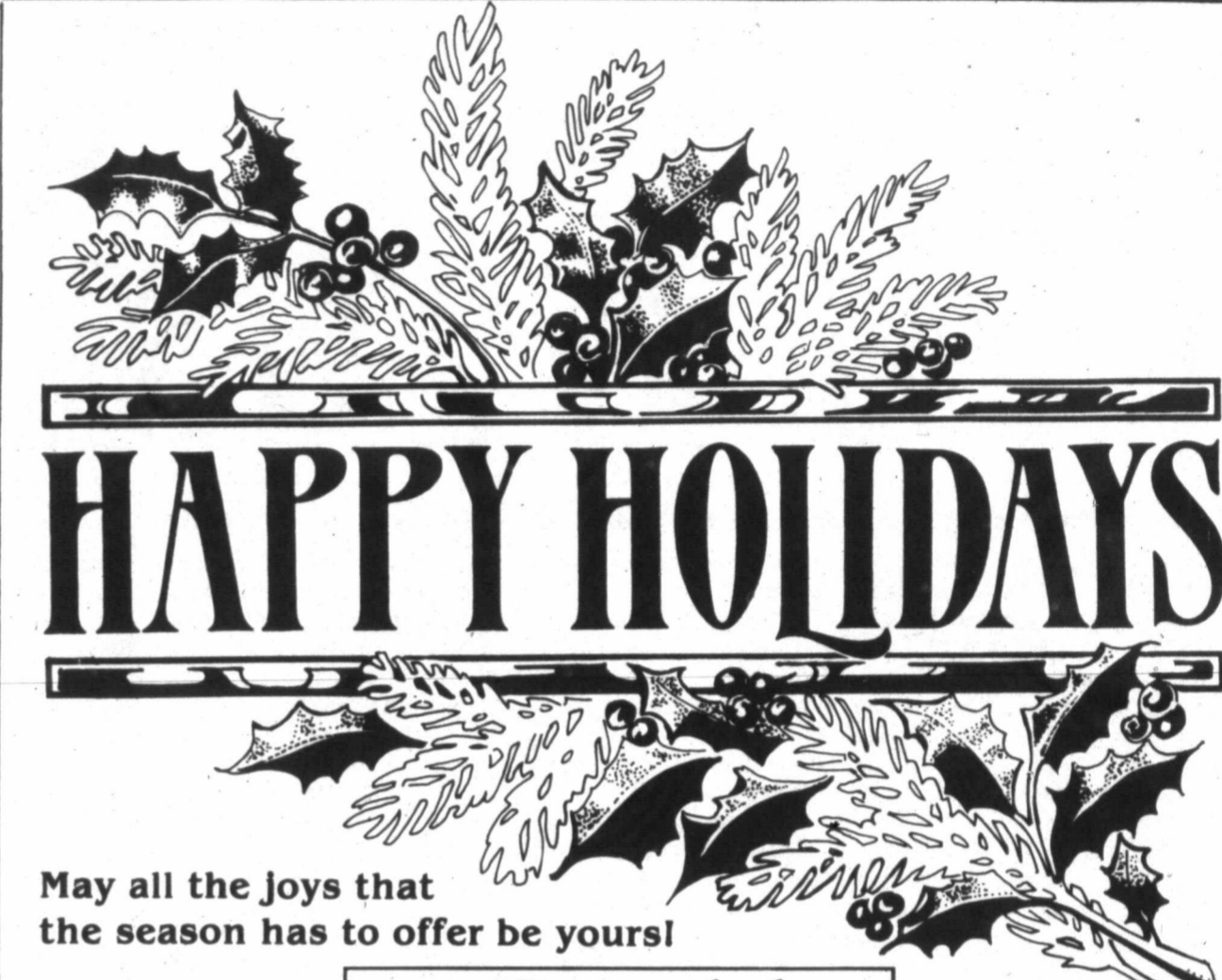
That formula calls for Montana to lose one of its two House seats. But state officials argue that would leave them with only one representative for 803,000 residents, far above the "ideal" district size of 572,000. The state contends the disparity violates the Constitution's one-person, one-vote mandate.



Merry Christmas

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Security heavy for Christmas Eve in Bethlehem

By HAITHAM HAMAD
Associated Press Writer



Two Israeli border policemen stand guard atop the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem Monday. As the Christmas holiday approaches, heavy security by Israeli forces has been intensified.

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Merchants in Bethlehem ignored a call by Palestinian activists to close shops today as Christian pilgrims converged on the town to celebrate Christmas Eve.

Shops and restaurants were open in the city's central square in response to a plea Monday by Bethlehem's Palestinian mayor, Elias Freij, for businessmen to ignore the strike order and stay open for visitors.

It was the first Christmas Eve since the start of the four-year Palestinian uprising that Bethlehem's shopkeepers were open on the holiday. After an initial hesitancy, merchants began opening at midmorning around Manger Square. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers and

police were posted in the town and people had to submit to searches and pass through a metal detector to enter Manger Square. The square is adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, revered by Christians as the site of Christ's birth.

For a second year, the army imposed a curfew on the residents of three Palestinian refugee camps in and around Bethlehem, confining some 15,000 people to their homes. The military security has been stepped up since 1987, when Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip launched their uprising against Israeli occupation.

The Israeli Tourism Ministry predicted that some 4,000 foreigners would visit Bethlehem this Christmas Eve, a sharp increase from the handful who came last year in the midst of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Scores of tour buses began arriving shortly after 8 a.m. and lines formed in the church as pilgrims waited to go down into the grotto where tradition holds Christ was born.

The strike was not expected to interfere with religious activities.

They were to begin with the procession of clerics led by the Latin Patriarch, Archbishop Michel Sabah, to the Church of the Nativity at 1:30 p.m. A choir concert was scheduled in the square before Midnight Mass at St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church.

For the fifth consecutive year, the municipality of Bethlehem canceled its Christmas Eve parade and receptions in deference to the uprising.

Still, the star atop the fir tree in Manger Square was to be lighted as always at nightfall.

Today's strike was called in a

leaflet signed by the "National Forces in Bethlehem."

The leaflet cited the suffering of Palestinians "from the oppression of Israeli military occupation" and "the pain and suffering of the Iraqi children" following the Gulf War.

The pamphlet, apparently from local activists, came as a surprise since the PLO-backed leadership of the uprising and the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement had both urged shops and restaurants to open Christmas Eve.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have waged their revolt in hopes of creating an independent homeland in the territories.

The territories, home to 1.7 million Palestinians, were seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Wildlife group file lawsuit seeking federal protection for real life Teddy Bears

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two environmental groups are stepping up their campaign to save the Teddy Bear — the real one, that is.

Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit Monday demanding the Interior Department protect the Louisiana black bear under the Endangered Species Act.

The Louisiana bear gained national prominence nearly a century ago when President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a cub during a hunt-

ing trip. The incident was depicted in cartoons and soon the toy Teddy Bear was born.

At the time of Roosevelt's stand-off, an estimated 1,600 Louisiana black bears roamed the woods from eastern Texas across Louisiana and Mississippi to western Alabama. Today, there may be as few as 100 confined to two river valleys in Louisiana, environmentalists say.

The lawsuit filed Monday in U.S. District Court in New Orleans, accused Interior Secretary Manuel

Lujan of refusing to comply with the Endangered Species Act by not declaring the bear in need of federal protection.

It said the bear became eligible for protection a decade ago and more than a year ago the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed that it be declared threatened, one step down from endangered status. The department has allowed two deadlines for a decision to pass, the lawsuit argues.

A spokesman for Lujan, Steve Goldstein, called the lawsuit an

attempt "to get publicity two days before Christmas" with an allusion to the popular Teddy Bear toy and said the action ignores the fact that discussions on a bear recovery plan have been under way for months.

The discussions among local environmental groups, state and industry officials as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service "are working out well," Goldstein said.

Citing the ongoing efforts to deal with the bear's recovery, Louisiana officials have urged against a formal

endangered species declaration for the animal. Goldstein said a decision on whether to list the bear as protected is expected before the end of the year.

But in announcing the lawsuit at a news conference, Rodger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife, accused Lujan of having "caved in to logging and development interests"

by not acting on the matter.

The Interior Department has "stalled, backpedaled and delayed" in protecting the bear, he said.

Schlickeisen said the remaining 100 to 150 Louisiana black bears, which live in two separate river basins of Louisiana, are "now more at risk than 75 percent of all other mammals" already protected under the Endangered Species Act.

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D-27

December 23, 24, 1991

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Mark W. Ford, Jr., D.C.

Dear Friends,

It has been my pleasure to serve the people of the Texas Panhandle and Western Oklahoma for the past 41 years. The time has come for me to step aside and pass on your care to another. As of December 31st, I will be retiring from active practice. Realizing this time would come, I began an extensive search five years ago to find a chiropractic physician who would provide the same care and concern which has been my privilege to render. My search came to a successful end four years ago when Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr. became my associate.

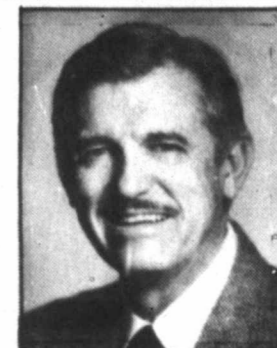
Dr. Ford earned his Doctor of Chiropractic degree summa cum laude from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 1982. His background prior to becoming a chiropractor included appointments to West Point, the Air Force Academy and he taught aerospace physiology to pilots while serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree and has attended numerous postgraduate courses to improve his ability to serve his patients. In particular, Dr. Ford recently completed a course of study through Parker College of Chiropractic which lasted over the past three years and has qualified him to be classified as a Board Eligible Chiropractic Orthopedist. He was also recently appointed to serve as area chairman on the Texas State Committee on Chiropractic Peer Review. Locally, Dr. Ford has become very active in various youth activities and has a strong sense of civic duty.

As you can see, Dr. Ford is very well qualified to serve as your chiropractic physician. More importantly, he has the unique combination of genuine care and concern for his patients which was my main goal in finding someone to perpetuate my practice. I know Dr. Ford will provide the best possible service to you and your loved ones. In addition, since Dr. Ford has not met each and every one of you, I will remain available to consult with him on any case which may require special attention. Also, all your records will stay on active file with Dr. Ford; therefore, your care can continue without any problems.

In closing, let me thank you again for the special privilege of serving you over the years. My care and concern for you is not ending with my retirement, but will continue through the very capable service that Dr. Ford and our friendly staff will provide.

Please accept my wishes for a happy and healthy life through the benefit of chiropractic care.

Sincerely,
Louis W. Haydon, D.C.
Louis W. Haydon, D. C.



Louis W. Haydon, D.C., P.C.

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Philadelphia train station fire shuts down key rail route, interrupts holiday travel

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Trains on Amtrak's busy route between New York and Washington were back on schedule today after a fire in the city's main station interrupted the trips of as many as 12,000 travelers, a spokeswoman said.

Sue Martin, an Amtrak spokeswoman in Washington, said trains began running through the station again shortly after 5:30 a.m. Amtrak workers spent the night cleaning up after the fire, she said.

The fire broke out about 5 p.m. Monday at 30th Street Station. The station was evacuated about an hour later

because of thick smoke, said fire Capt. Paul Seaman.

The station is undergoing renovations, and the fire appeared to have broken out in an area where construction materials were kept, he said. No major structural damage was reported.

More than 300 firefighters brought the blaze under control in about 4 1/2 hours.

Martin said Amtrak trains bypassed 30th Street Station overnight. Passengers were bused to and from North Philadelphia, one station north of 30th Street.

On Monday evening, however, trips were canceled.

Nine trains heading south from New York stopped in Trenton, N.J., and passengers were given the option of continuing on buses or returning the way they came. Six northbound trains stopped in Wilmington, Del., and riders got the same choices.

Six trains passed through the station after the fire started, but Amtrak stopped allowing that after smoke cut visibility on the tracks, Amtrak spokesman Howard Robertson said.

Because of the holidays, traffic was heavy. Martin estimated there were 300 to 400 passengers per Amtrak train.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the station, unsure of how to get where they wanted to go.

"It looks like I'm going to have to take the bus tonight," said Peter Hauss, 44, waiting for a train to Harrisburg to visit his family.

Hauss said his train from suburban Philadelphia stopped at 30th Street, but the noxious smoke made it impossible for him to go beyond the stairwell.

"It's very inconvenient," said Joanne Kramer, 22, coming from New York to visit relatives in St. Davids, Pa.

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MANAGER

The best of wishes for a
Happy
And Prosperous
New Year. We want you to
Know that we appreciate
Your patronage and the
Opportunity you've given
Us to serve you!

AND A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
WISH TO YOU MR. HARRIS-
From All The Crew

HOMELAND

PAMPA MALL

PAMPA, TEXAS

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

And A Happy New Year.

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa Claus

I have a long list of toys. Hear is the first thing. 2.00\$ and a train and a race-track one that makes sparks under it. I hope you understand. I want ice-skates, that are red and blue. I want a tv with a nutendo. I want my clock to work. I want cars to.

from Chad
Hears my st number 2216 Lea

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Chris Batman I am in the third grade I am 8 years old. I want a game boy and all of the ninja turtles. I will have cookies and milk waiting for you on Christmas.

Your frind,
Chris

Dear Santa,

Hope everyone at the North Pole is doing good this year!

I have been a real good boy this year.

Would you please bring me a big fire truck with a siren, some fun blocks I can put together, and a big airplane. My mom says I need new clothes, too—but I like the toys and candy better.

I have a new little brother this year! His name is James Keith. He is only almost 5 mos. old so I am writing for him, too. He likes music toys and likes to chew on everything.

Thank you for all the good things you brought last year. My cousin, Kelli Willson, really like her presents, too. I think she would really like dolls or maybe even a little bike. I'll have some milk and Krispie Cookies for you.

Love,
Colby Stevens
James Keith Stevens

Dear Santa

Hi Santa, how's life been treating you? Me, well just fine. Well were both 1 year older. How was your year? Mrs. Clase? Well if you won't to know, my year went very good ... I think, so far. Of course you know my favorite time of the year, is getting closer. And closer every time we turn around. Yes, you guest it, Christmas! So, to get on with it. What I want. Well I want it all!! But, to make it a little eseyer for you, here are just a few things I want

1. leather jacket
2. Lock-n-roll
3. a new hair dryer
4. tapes
5. clothes
6. a tv (television) 4 upstairs
7. red couch like my red chair

Japanese staying home for their Christmas parties

TOKYO (AP) — Christmas in this non-Christian nation used to be another excuse for workers to get smashed in the name of social obligation, or the big night for lovers splurging on an expensive dinner and hotel.

This year, trend watchers say, the party's at home, brought on in part by the economic slowdown.

Potluck gatherings, Christmas clothing such as red mini-skirts and veranda lights are in the air this year. Even the Christmas trees are bigger, growing from the usual tiny foot-high trees to six-footers, retailers say.

"The common standard that city restaurants and plush hotels are the trendiest places to spend Christmas is breaking down this year," the national *Asahi* newspaper said.

Many youths are trying to celebrate the season in their own way, "rather than going to the places recommended in magazines like everyone else," it reported.

That's a big shift for a mostly Buddhist and Shintoist nation whose past treatment of the holiday has centered around gift-hawking commercialism and rowdy drinking sprees.

Studies by the Seiyu supermarket chain show an increase in "families who enjoy parties at home," said the chain's Hiroshi Nada. One study showed that 85 percent of 600 housewives surveyed gave Christmas parties, spending \$75 to \$150 on the event.

A similar tendency was detected among the young. A study of 219 shoppers, ages 18 to 32, at the Seibu department store found that although restaurant outings were still favored by one-third of the respondents, one-fifth said they planned to attend a party at a home.

This year's economic slowdown has put a damper on spending. But retailers prefer to say the trend mainly reflects a greater emphasis on family life.

According to a Seiyu pamphlet, the proper father can no longer hop around the glitzy Ginza on Christmas Eve, only to totter home with a purchased "decoration cake" donned with candied Santas to wipe away his guilt.

Wearing a big smile, he must toast with champagne his family and friends at home.

8. a verry good stereo 4 upstairs
9. 1 cd palyer upstairs
10. fill my stocking as full as you can

11. sandwich maker
Love,
Kaysi

I've been good this year, or ate least preaty good!!!!

P.S. If your asking your-self I wonder what she would like the most? Well I can tell you a leather jacket Bad, I'm going crazy!!! Leather jacket, (please make me happy!!) leather jacket

Dear Santa

Four days before Christmas please come. Would you please come early and do not bring stuff for are stocking we are ogin to take them to Grandma's ardess is 5,000 Shipton Road Salina, KS 67401. Please come.

Thank you
Marcus
Conner
Jake

P.S. Fill are stocking at Grandma's house. We want: walkmen, hitstix with AMP, lifier, telescope, daisy defense to rce, art in giant loop, challenge roadra, jake ross, b.b. gun, air rifel case for my beebie gun, dart gun with a target. Remote control car, 10 speed mountain bike, pocket knife, small TV gameboy with tapes.

Dear Santa,

I love you. I've been good. I want a lot of things. I want a singing Mermaid, a Climp n Curl and my own Christmas book and a jewelry box with a dancing ballerina in it. I want doll clothes and a carebear.

Love
(Marlee)

Dear Santa

I want a big will, a moterskate and a few Negatetols pleas. A remote cntrol car and some cool Netendo gams. And a Ultament woryer man. And a skatbord with hands you can put on and a bunch of toy cars. and a bell from your stoay. and a watch and a telephone and a camera, Nenja tortles cars and a kite and thats all.

Love
Patrick

Dear Santa,

Never mind what I told your elf ok? Because I forgot something. I know you and mom have talked because she told me. I know I won't

get a fast traxs even if I ask for one.

Now what I really want is some spurs. You can surprise me with whatever else you want me to have because I know I will be happy with it. I am also asking you to bring mom a Mustang because I think it would be neat to ride in one with the top down. I hope Rod gets a Four-Wheeler if you can bring him one. I will leave you some Rice Krispies Treats and one apple and some milk. Is that ok with you, I hope I didn't spoil your surprise. I hope you get enough sleep between now and Christmas Eve. I will go to bed on time so you can come when I am asleep. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Your Best Friend,
Ricky Blain
P.S. Hope you don't get too full.

Dear Santa

Hou well are your raindeer filling. I have been reall good this year.

Have you been sick any? Have your raindeer been sick?

These are the things I want Christmas. I want a sonicsix bike and a football that screams when you throw it real high and I want a Christmas ornament and I want these.

Love
Ryan Chisum

Dear Santa,

My name is Shayna Evans. I'm 4 yrs. old. For X'mas I would like a bike with radio, a baby doll, and the game Operation. Don't forget about all my friends and teachers and daycare and Pre-K.

Shayna Evans

Dear Santa,

I want a sweater, Susie Snapshot, a Skipper doll, a baby doll, puzzles, and, book. My brother Aaron would like Basketball goal, books, candy. We will

leave milk and goodies for you.

Love,
Stacy Pepper age 5
Aaron Pepper age 2

Dear Santa,

I want for Christmas is a men walkmen and a drum and a west and cry baby. And a bike and the cartoon of robin hood.

Love, Stephanie to Santa

Dar santa claus

I want a Bowand arrow weth 10 arrow and I want the movie ninja turtle 2

Thank you Love Nicholas

Dear Santa

I am going to my relatives. Could you bring my present early?

And I need you to please bring my brother his to.

Year friend Stephanie Peoples and my brother loves you to. Merry Christmas from Stephanie Peoples

Dear Santa

Can I have the hole set of turtle cards? And can I have the turtles part 2 on Nintendo? And can I have the turtles poster? to the North Pole, Stephen

Dear Santa

My name is Zed Richards and I am 3 years old. Please bring me a bull-dozer for Christmas. I have been a good boy this year.

Zed Richards

Happy Holidays!



We wish to you and yours the best of the season... thanks for your patronage!

Pampa Travel Center, Inc.
1617 N. Hobart • 665-2394



HARK,
The Herald Angels Sing...

Merry Christmas to all of you, and thanks for your friendship.

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SALE STARTS THURSDAY, DEC. 26th

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| ON SALE Electric Blankets | ON SALE Men's Outerwear | ON SALE Women's Fashion Pumps or Skimmers |
| ON SALE Blanket Throws | ON SALE Men's Haggar® and Farah® Sport Coats | ON SALE Women's and Juniors' Chic® Jeans |
| ON SALE Men's Long Sleeve Dress and Sport Shirts | ON SALE Men's Fashion Fleece Tops | ON SALE Women's and Juniors' Long Sleeve Knit Tops |
| ON SALE Men's Haggar® Casual and Dress Slacks | ON SALE Children's Long Sleeve Tops | ON SALE Women's and Juniors' Woven Cotton Tops |
| ON SALE Men's Famous Brand Fashion Jeans | ON SALE Children's Fleecewear | ON SALE Women's and Juniors' Fall Sweaters |
| ON SALE Men's Long Sleeve ATB® Western Shirts | ON SALE Children's Sweaters | ON SALE Women's Fashion Jewelry |
| ON SALE Men's Long Sleeve Flannel Western Shirts | ON SALE Children's Outerwear | ON SALE Donnkenny® Related Separates |
| ON SALE Men's Famous Brand Patterned Sweaters | ON SALE Boy's 6-Pack Tube and Crew Socks | ON SALE Women's Sleepwear and Robes |
| ON SALE Men's and Children's 2-Piece Jog Suits | ON SALE Infant and Toddler Coordinates | ON SALE Women's and Girls' Socks |
| ON SALE Men's Long Sleeve Flannel Shirts | ON SALE Boys' Sports Licensed Activewear | ON SALE Women's and Juniors' Dresses and Jumpsuits |
| ON SALE Holiday Gift Items | ON SALE Women's and Girls' Ballerina Bow Flats | ON SALE Juniors' Related Separates |
| ON SALE Men's and Women's Fashion and Sport Watches | ON SALE Keds® Leather Bootie and Assorted Styles | ON SALE Women's Fashion Leggings |
| ON SALE Men's Denim Fashion Overalls | ON SALE Women's Easy Street® Halo Pumps | ON SALE Women's Satin Panties |
| ON SALE Men's Robes | ON SALE Women's and Children's Dearfoam® Slippers | ON SALE Women's Famous Brand Bras and Hosiery |

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Merry Christmas.
We thank you for your patronage

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Christmas Wishes

for you, our valued patrons!
We hope your holidays glow!

Sands Fabrics & Quilt Corner



225 N. Cuyler

Unemployed put Santa suits on, but not for the Ho-Ho-Ho's

SUNNYVALE, Calif. (AP) — When out-of-work Tony Castro applied for a temporary job, he didn't know what he would be getting into — a big red suit and fake white beard.

Unemployed workers this year from laborers to executives lined up for jobs as Santa Claus in what has become a booming industry created by hard times, job agencies said.

"When I applied for temporary work, I hesitated a bit before I marked the box next to Santa. But I'm a little chunky, so I thought 'What the heck.' But I didn't expect to get this kind of work," Castro said Monday after a monthlong stint at Sunnyvale Town Center.

Western Temporary Services, which hires more than 3,000 Santas nationwide each Christmas season, saw a broad range of applicants this year, said Sharon Burns, a spokeswoman for the Walnut Creek-based company.

"We had everybody from labor to middle management... We got our regulars like college students and retired people who just enjoy playing Santa Claus," Burns said. "But we got a lot more people coming in who were just looking for some work. It's hard times out there."

Burns said her company didn't keep track of how many applicants were moonlighting as Santa, compared to those who had no other job. But she said the "Santa business" was up by about 15 percent this year and she noted that most people who apply for temporary jobs usually are not employed.

Castro, 38, is trained as a machinist, but was unable to find a job for two years in the area, about 40 miles south of San Francisco.

His unemployment had dwindled to \$73 a week, so he welcomed the chance to bring home about \$150 a week by working 20 hours as Santa.

"My daughter came by and took a picture of me," said Castro, whose wife works in the electronics industry. "And I started feeling pretty good about the job. It was a morale booster. In our house, we don't even have a tree this year. But I got a big tree here at the mall."

Brian Snyder, who managed the Santas at the Sunnyvale mall this year and worked as Santa himself, needed the job after three years of doing it just for fun. In April, Snyder lost his job at LSI Logic, an electronics firm.

"At first it was tough to be jolly when I really wasn't," said Snyder, 25. "But then as soon as you sit in that seat and kids start coming up to you all excited to see this big fat guy, you become happy, too."

David Seeberger, 34, a Santa at the Valley Fair mall in San Jose, was too embarrassed to tell prospective employ-

ers about what he has been since he was laid off in October. He simply wrote on applications that he was working "part-time at Valley Fair."

"I just found a permanent job at a travel firm," said Seeberger, an accountant. "I start in February. I'd just as soon forget about this Santa stuff."

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

FREE COLLECTORS PLATE TO THE FIRST 100 CUSTOMERS!



This fine porcelain plate is trimmed in 24K gold. It measures 6 1/2" in diameter, and comes with an easel. Free to the first 100 customers that come into our store on Thursday, December 26th, so plan to be early!

JCPenney
Pampa Mall

Happy Holidays

We welcome the opportunity to wish our many friends and patrons good health and prosperity — a happy holiday season to you all!

NBC
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE

1224 N. Hobart Member FDIC 665-0022

1/2

We've cut prices IN HALF on lots of Christmas leftovers. Save On Select Items! You'll find name brands at super prices, so hurry in while selection is good. Don't be left out!

PRICE SALE

Sale Starts Thursday 11-6

Hurry In For Best Selection

DUNLAPS
Coronado Center

We Accept Discover, Dunlaps Charge, Visa MasterCard & American Express

Lifestyles

Christmas for Dutch people is centered around family togetherness, love and peace

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
Lifestyles Editor

It seems that theme of "Peace on Earth" echoes around the world during the Christmas season. Whether the story of Christmas has an American flavor or is told by someone from another country, the ideals of love, community and giving are central to the celebration.

Berrie and Jose de Lange make their home in Pampa now, but are natives of Holland. While they enter in to the American way of celebrating Christmas, they fondly recall the ways of their families and the generations of Dutch who lived before them.

Central to the celebration of the holiday season is a character known as Saint Nicolaas, a bishop in the Catholic Church, who is said to have sailed from Spain to Holland about 600 years ago. He was accompanied by Moors, who children are told, are helpers for Saint Nicolaas. He arrived in Holland near the end of November and that is when the holiday season begins. de Lange said that in modern times, the re-enacted arrival of Saint Nicolaas is a televised event broadcast nationwide.

Following the arrival of the famous saint, but before Sinter Klaas evening, or "present evening", children put out their shoes in anticipation of a visit by Saint Nicolaas. The children may leave carrots and hay for the white horse Saint Nicolaas is rumored to ride across the rooftops of the Dutch people. In the morning, their shoes will be filled with small candies or a toy.

The Moors, or helpers for Saint Nicolaas, are said to actually fill the shoes and take the carrots and hay left for the horse. Like in American tradition, what is left for the child is a function of whether he has been "naughty or nice". It is said that in his omniscience, Saint Nicolaas keeps a big book of rights and wrongs.

de Lange said that each town has a parade, much as in America, heralding the arrival of Saint Nicolaas to the area.

In his home, de Lange said that his mother had a big apron which she wore in order to hide hard candy. She knocked on the door and when the children ran to the door, she threw handfuls of the candy, pretending that Saint Nicolaas did it. He said that in small celebrations such as this, each family was individual

about the customs they practice.

The most exciting night for children is the night of Dec. 5, known as Sinter Klaas evening. Older children and adults, pretending to be Saint Nicolaas, write poems to accompany gifts and the length of the poem corresponds to the size of the gift. The poems rhyme and generally have a message corresponding to events in the recipients life.

de Lange said father would get all the gifts and stack them just outside the front door, knock very hard on the door, and slip inside before the children could answer. He would hide in the bathroom, and as the children opened the door expecting to see the elusive Saint Nicolaas, Mr. de Lange would exclaim, "Oh, no! I missed him again! What did he bring?"

On that evening, family and friends gather. They drink bishop's wine, a hot, red wine spiced with cinnamon and cloves.

Candy such as marzipan and chocolate shaped like letters are part of the celebration. Speculaas, something like a gingerbread cookie, and nuts mixed with spices are enjoyed.

December 6 is considered to be the birthday of Saint Nicolaas. It is said that he gave gifts to poor chil-

dren on his birthday and is remembered for his generosity.

Saint Nicolaas wears a tall red hat with a gold cross, has long white hair which grows past his shoulders, and a long white beard. He wears a white cassock covered by a red cape, black boots and white gloves. The saint carries a gold staff shaped like a shepherd's crook. Jose said that he talks in a deep, but friendly voice.

Some of the tradition of Saint Nicolaas is fading. "I think it is because the world is more international," Berrie said. In about the last 10 years, the Dutch have seen the introduction of Santa Claus, again because of television and the influence of international life, the de Lange's said.

The birthday of Christ is celebrated on Dec. 25, when adults have off from work. It is called Kerstmis.

The nation is divided among Catholics and Protestants, but the theme of "Peace on Earth" is very much apart of the celebration. Church attendance is high.

Like in America, the holidays may be a lonely time. Jose, a psychiatric nurse said, "I was a nurse and it was really the loneliest time for the lonely people."



Jose and Berrie de Lange
(Staff photo by Cheryl Berzanskis)

Sinus problems can sometimes be traced to teeth

By DR. ROBERT GLICKMAN
New York University School of Medicine

NEW YORK — That toothache you think you have may not be a toothache at all; it could be a sinus problem. It is not uncommon for a dental problem to cause sinus symptoms, and vice versa.

Sometimes both the teeth and sinuses can be involved, such as when an infection spreads from one to the other.

These overlaps in dental and sinus problems and symptoms are a result

of molars and premolars of the upper jaw being in close proximity to the maxillary sinuses.

The maxillary sinuses, one of three pairs of sinuses, are air-filled cavities in the cheekbones that connect to the nasal passage.

These sinuses are separated from the teeth of the upper jaw usually by only a thin layer of bone. When the sinuses are larger than normal, there may be only thin layers of membrane separating them from the teeth.

When a molar or premolar is extracted, an opening to the sinus

may be created.

This area of the face is rich in blood vessels and nerve endings. So an infection or pain in one region can spread to another.

When the maxillary sinuses become inflamed by an infection, a condition called sinusitis, the pressure may be felt as a toothache in the upper jaw.

Similarly, pressure on the teeth may be felt in the sinuses. The pressure may be caused by inflamed tissues resulting from a tooth or gum infection, a tooth out of alignment (a bad bite), or from grinding teeth.

Infections in the mouth can spread into the sinuses causing sinusitis to develop.

Persistent or frequent bouts of sinusitis in the absence of a known sinus abnormality or allergies suggest the need for an oral exam to determine if an underlying dental infection is involved.

In such cases, the sinus infection can't be eliminated completely until the offending tooth or teeth are treated.

A combination of dental and sinus symptoms calls for a medical and dental evaluation.

Mother-daughter relationship is toppled by mountain of debt

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, I lent my daughter and her husband \$35,000 so they could purchase a home. I told them that they could pay me back when they were financially able. (No mention was made about "interest.")

After two years, there was nothing said about repaying the loan, so I asked them when they intended to pay me back. They just looked at each other, then changed the subject. By the way, their combined incomes come close to \$100,000 annually.

Now they tell me that they considered the money a gift, and they will not be paying it back! Needless to say, we are not speaking. Is there anything I can do to get my money back? Can I take them to court?

BESIDE MYSELF IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR BESIDE: Can you take them to court? Of course you can, but in the absence of a written note stating that the \$35,000 was a loan, you not only bought them a house — you bought yourself a headache. Your first order of business: Call your lawyer.



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 years old, and my best friend just died. Her name is Beeper. She is a bird — a finch, to be exact.

Beeper died all of a sudden. She wasn't even sick. Yesterday, she was fine. It really hurts to lose a pet without any kind of warning. Some people might think losing a bird is nothing to feel miserable about, but Abby, Beeper meant the world to me, and I can't even weep for her because I'm afraid people will laugh.

I just had to write to you to express my feelings. I hope you won't think I'm silly. I am really sad. People say, "Get another bird — it will help you get over losing Beeper." Abby, do you think I should get another bird?

APRIL SOLOMON

DEAR APRIL: Yes, but don't

try to replace Beeper with a finch that looks like Beeper. A pet — like a human friend — can never be replaced.

DEAR ABBY: You often hear from people who feel trapped into "competitive grandparenting," feeling they must match the in-laws gift for gift. The same sort of competition can develop between parents and stepparents. The kids encourage it because of all the goodies they get.

I recently heard my mother deal with the issue in a wonderful way. My sister's 5-year-old was visiting my mother and asked, "Are you going to take me to the toy store? Grandma Johnson always does."

I was horrified because my parents are nowhere near as well off as the "Johnsons." But Mother didn't get defensive. She just said, "Different grandmas are good at different things. Grandma Johnson is your shopping grandma; I am your cooking grandma." And they went into the kitchen and made brownies!

Isn't that beautiful? I don't have any grandkids yet, but I have already decided to be their "reading grandma."

AUNTIE M IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR AUNTIE M: I admire your mother's sense of values. Every child should be so lucky as to have a "cooking grandma."

CHRISTMAS JOY

Swinging in with a special wish for you at Christmas: Have a delightful holiday filled with laughter and cheer.

From All Of Us Here At...

DUNLAPS

Coronado Center

FROM US...

TO ALL OF YOU.

It's a real pleasure to have this opportunity to extend our best wishes to our many good friends and patrons during the holiday season...we appreciate your loyalty. Merry Christmas!

2545 Perryton Parkway, Pampa, Texas 79065
Mall Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.

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BALI® DOUBLE SUPPORT® SOFT-CUP BRA
Perfect for the active woman, with back closure and wide adjustable stretch straps. Choose white or beige nylon/Lycra® spandex. Sizes 34-38 B-C. reg. 20.00, now 13.40.
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Sculpts the body in beautiful comfort. Tummy panel for an extra touch of support. White or beige nylon/Lycra® spandex. Sizes S-M-L-XL. Reg. 9.50, now 6.36.
Shown, just a sample of the savings you will find in our Intimate Apparel Department.

BEALLS

CLOSED TODAY SO OUR ASSOCIATES CAN ENJOY THE HOLIDAY WITH THEIR FAMILIES. SHOP EARLY THURSDAY: OPEN AT 9 A.M.

The Pampa News

Comic Page

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Cavity in rock
- Religious group
- European fish
- Excessive love of self
- Photo fixer (sl.)
- Drowsier
- Composer - Stravinsky
- Wheel covering
- Putting on
- Mao - lung
- Trigonometry term
- Footrest
- 28 English coins
- 31 Hawaiian instrument
- 32 Donkey's cry
- 34 Actor - Bogarde
- 35 Glossy fabric
- 37 Beehive

DOWN

- Suit part
- Citrus fruit
- Patron

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | M | B | E | R | U | P | E | N | D |
| M | O | U | S | E | D | A | N | O | M |
| B | O | N | S | A | I | L | I | P | I |
| O | N | S | C | R | O | F | T | L | E |
| A | T | E | L | I | E | R | | | |
| C | A | P | T | R | E | E | C | R | U |
| R | O | U | T | C | A | B | A | N | |
| E | N | T | E | A | B | R | I | | |
| W | E | T | S | P | A | L | L | S | A |
| T | U | R | M | O | I | L | | | |
| X | I | I | N | E | A | R | S | P | A |
| M | O | R | R | I | S | I | L | L | U |
| A | W | A | I | T | S | S | E | A | L |
| S | A | N | D | I | | T | I | E | R |

WALNUT COVE

You got fired from the department store?

Yeah. But working there really reminded me what Christmas is all about, Lori.

I realized the only way to be close to God this time of year is to just reject commercialism and buy absolutely nothing!

Yes, I can see how not buying presents for anyone would bring you closer to God...

I mean, like, face to face.

I wonder if K-mart is still open...

By Mark Cullum

ARLO & JANIS

HO HUM!

I'M BEAT!

GUESS I'LL TURN IN!

DON'T YOU WANT SOME LUNCH FIRST?

By Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK

THE WITNESS HAS ASKED THAT HIS VOICE BE DUBBED...

AND AN ACTOR BE USED TO PORTRAY HIM...

AND FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION SOMEONE ELSE'S TESTIMONY WILL BE USED

By Howie Schneider

B.C.

WHAT DID YOU LEAVE FOR SANTA AND HIS REINDEER, CHILDREN?

SOME PICKLED EGGS, KIELBASA, AND A SIX-PACK.

THE KIDS ARE ON TO YOU, LARDO.

By Johnny Hart

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Good things could happen for you today through your social involvements. Make it a point to be convivial with everyone you encounter. Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send your Capricorn's Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$1.25 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You'll know how to make the most out of the least today in any type of circumstance. Your prime goal, however, will be doing what you can to make others happy.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You'll love people in your own quiet way today and you'll instinctively know how to bring everyone together. Even shy souls will be encouraged to emerge from their shells.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You shouldn't have any problems today accomplishing what you set your mind to, as your sense of procedure will be extremely effective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your popularity is ascending to a high point and you should be well-received today, wherever you go. Regardless of the people or circumstances, just be your own sweet self.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Devoting time and attention to your family and relatives today will imbue you with deep feelings of belonging which, in turn, will enhance your sense of well-being and security.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You should have an opportunity today to catch up on all the latest developments and scuttlebutt. You'll feel good being brought up to date concerning those you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Even if you have a number of social commitments today, you'll still be quite productive and able to get essential things done, owing to your talent for organization.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Instinctively, you'll know what to do and say today to make everyone happy and, because of this gift, you're likely to find yourself the center of attention. It should be a fun day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It won't be necessary for you to be in the spotlight today in order to have a good time. Your enjoyment will come through quiet involvements with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) The more people you'll have around you today, the better you'll like it, and it looks like your desires will be joyously gratified. This should be your kind of day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You have a gift today for doing all the right things that generate the right types of results. Even if something unforeseen should occur, you'll handle it in stride.

MARVIN

TOMORROW MORNING SANTA WILL BE BRINGING TOYS TO ALL THE GIRLS AND BOYS WHO'VE BEEN GOOD!

By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE

YOU MIGHT AS WELL PLAN ON SLEEPING IN

By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE

A TUNA-CHIP COOKIE?!!

By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP

THIS IS WONDERFUL COUNTRY, ALLEY! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

IT'S A PRETTY SPECIAL PLACE, ALL RIGHT!

By Dave Graue

SNAFU

LOOK AT THOSE DINOSAURS! THEY'RE JUST BEAUTIFUL!

YEAH, I GUESS SOME FOLKS THEY ARE... BUT THEY'RE ALSO BIG, DUMB, AN' DANGEROUS!

SO DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO 'EM!

By Bruce Beattie

WINTHROP

WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

LOOK YOUR TELEVISION SET OVER VERY CAREFULLY...

IF YOU FIND A SLOT, PLUG A QUARTER IN IT.

By Dick Cavalli

THE BORN LOSER

MERRY CHRISTMAS, BROTHER LOBBS! SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY...

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, BROTHER SOWERBERRY! SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY...

MERRY CHRISTMAS, BROTHER THORNAPPLE! SEE YOU NEXT EASTER...

YOU BET, REVEREND!

By Art and Chip Sansom

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"I hope it's foggy tonight so Rudolph will hafta guide Santa's sleigh."

By Bil Keane

CALVIN AND HOBBS

OH NO! A KNOCK AT THE DOOR! THE BABY SITTER MUST BE HERE!

SHOULD WE HIDE?

NO WAY BABY SITTERS CAN SMELL FEAR IN LITTLE KIDS. WE'D BE DOOMED.

SO WE GO ON THE OFFENSIVE?

RIGHT HERE'S A NOTEPAD AND PENCIL

OH BOY, BLACKMAIL!

RIGHT, GET TO THE UPSTAIRS PHONE WHEN SHE CALLS HER BOYFRIEND

By Bill Watterson

FRANK AND ERNEST

I THINK HE'S LOSING HIS FAITH IN RUDOLPH'S DRIVING... HE JUST INSTALLED AN AIR BAG IN HIS SLEIGH!

By Bob Thaves

PEANUTS

AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SANTA CLAUS COMES TO FILL YOUR STOCKING?

I'LL BE READY

By Charles M. Schulz

GARFIELD

ARE YOU BOYS GOING TO BED, OR ARE YOU GOING TO WAIT UP HALF THE NIGHT ON SANTA?

By Jim Davis

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By Jim Davis

North Ireland's convicted murderers released for Christmas break

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Tommy Laughlin walked out of the Maze Prison and into the arms of his family.

"Happy Christmas there, son!" said his father, slapping his brawny back. "Your ma's cooked up a good feed for you at home."

Later that morning, John White, also out of jail, was standing outside a Belfast pub, accepting the affection of passersby in a Protestant neighborhood like a soldier back from the front.

"What about ye, John boy?" a man shouted from a passing car.

Someone handed White a frothy pint of beer. A woman weighed down with shopping bags pecked him on the cheek. "Och, it's good to see you're keepin' well," she said. "Enjoy your holiday, now."

Laughlin, 34, was convicted of killing a British soldier while on "active service" with the Irish Republican Army. White, 40, is a loyalist gunman who stabbed to

death a Catholic politician and his girlfriend.

They are among more than 130 of Northern Ireland's most notorious killers who are walking free for a week this Christmas.

The "home leave" program involves mostly unrepentant members of Catholic-republican and Protestant-loyalist gangs and runs from Dec. 23 to Dec. 30. This year's releases went ahead despite a spasm of sectarian violence over the weekend that left five people dead — and both sides with new scores to settle.

"Politicians who know little about Northern Ireland have generally reacted with shock — 'What? You must be mad letting out these terrorists!'" a senior prison official said.

"But the underpinning logic is that we recognize the reforming strength of the prisoners' families," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of his safety. "Anything you can do to get the

family behind the prisoner, to come out and not rejoin the terrorist ranks, is good."

The program, now in its sixth Christmas, also includes a week's leave in summer. Prisoners must have served at least 12 years to be considered for it.

Not a single convict has been lost so far. They know that misbehavior would spoil hopes for permanent release.

Francie Molloy, prison spokesman for Sinn Fein, the political party that backs the IRA, calls the releases a cynical ploy intended to cause "continuous psychological torture of both prisoners and their families."

White, who was a commander in the Ulster Freedom Fighters, also recognizes that the aim is "not to help the prisoners. It's to break up the paramilitaries."

This has not kept Sinn Fein and

the loyalist Ulster Defense Association from organizing a slew of social events around the released "freedom fighters," as each calls its own.

Often recruited at age 16 and behind bars by 20, many prisoners return to redeveloped neighborhoods, long-broken relationships and children they barely know.

All affirm their commitment to their side's cause of either defeating the IRA or the British forces. And they all talk of wanting the second chance at life that they denied their victims.

"The first time out, I was amazed at the changes that had taken place, most of all in my family," said Jimmy Burns, convicted in 1977 of murdering a member of the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force.

"All the nephews and nieces I'd never met — and one of them had a beard."

Burns, 40, who has twice escaped from prison, signed up for Christmas parole "even though it's shown the British government in a good light, which it shouldn't get."

He is spending much of his time with his son and daughter, the fruit of a marriage that collapsed shortly after his conviction.

The Rev. Denis Faul, a leading

civil rights campaigner and Roman Catholic priest, calls the releases "an absolutely incredible act of trust and hope in the community."

"Sinn Fein and the Provos (the IRA) don't have an answer for this," said Faul. "They love confrontation, suffering and misery. They do not want kindness, lenience, forgiveness. They can't cope with that."

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

So that our employees may spend the New Years Holiday with their families we will observe the following...

EARLY DEADLINES

DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY
Day of Insertion **Deadline**
 THURSDAY JANUARY 2..... MON. DEC. 30, 4 P.M.
 FRIDAY JANUARY 3..... TUES. DEC. 31, 11 A.M.

CLASSIFIED LINE ADS
Day of Insertion **Deadline**
 THURSDAY JANUARY 2..... TUES. DEC. 31, 5 P.M.

All other DEADLINES will remain at their regular times. We appreciate your cooperation and wish you and your friends a safe and happy holiday.



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| ENTIRE STOCK OF JUNIOR SWEATERS SOLID AND PATTERNED STYLES IN BOTH CROPPED AND TUNIC LENGTHS. ORIG. 28.00-48.00, NOW 19.99-29.99. | SAVE 25% TO 50% | BOYS' 8-20 STONED WASHED INDIGO JEANS SOFT COTTON DENIMS IN A FRONT-PLEATED STYLE FROM LA SCALA. ORIG. 19.99, NOW 9.99. | SAVE 50% |
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INTERIM MARKDOWNS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON SOME ITEMS.

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