

Adoption agency objects to Cabbage Patch Kids

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Promotional techniques employed by Coleco Industries in marketing the "Cabbage Patch Kids" show a "simplistic, negative" approach to the adoption process, an adoption agency official said Wednesday.

Antonio Adoption Awareness Center said she plans to file a formal letter of protest with Coleco by Friday, urging them to modify their marketing approach. The dolls, said to be the hottest gift item of the Christmas season, are sold with a set of adoption papers, which show

they come from the cabbage patch. "Adopted persons do not come from the cabbage patch, nor are they commodities for the marketplace," Dorner said. "Coleco's approach has offensive implications for birth families, adopted persons and adoptive families."

The advertising concept will make adoptive children believe they were chosen like a doll "off the shelf," she said. "There is a burden in feeling you were chosen. You think 'what are the possibilities of being un-chosen?' "The entire theme is one of distortion and mockery of the adoption process," Dorner said. "It's a simplistic, negative kind of thing. Coleco is really doing a great disservice."

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Dialysis may be needed Panda's life in danger

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Worried veterinarians are considering dialysis to save America's female giant panda, Ling-Ling, from a sudden and life-threatening kidney disorder, the chief doctor at the National Zoo said Wednesday.

Doctors are trying to figure out how the furry black and white, 227-pound panda contracted the kidney problem and severe anemia "that could lead to her death," Dr. Mitchell Bush told a news conference.

They said the problem could be related to her delivery last spring of the nation's first panda cub, but are awaiting further test results. Ling-Ling, and her mate, Hsing-Hsing, were gifts from China following President Nixon's 1972 visit.

"Until two weeks ago, we weren't suspicious of any problems," Bush said. "This is very

perplexing. She doesn't look sick."

He said doctors are considering dialysis to help the panda's two kidneys rid 14-year-old Ling-Ling's system of waste, but cautioned, "We'd like to point out that dialysis is for the short term."

Bush said the expensive and time-consuming procedure would not be feasible as a prolonged treatment. Dialysis involves filtering the blood through a machine and is frequently used for human kidney patients.

In 1979, doctors at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo used dialysis to treat a female panda, Lan-Lan, who died of a kidney ailment anyway. Lan-Lan's death appeared to be related to pregnancy.

Bush and chief zoo pathologist Dr. Richard Montali spent 90 minutes Wednesday at the 16th

annual meeting of the American Society of Nephrology — or kidney studies — consulting doctors on the panda's acute condition.

"We've pretty much ruled out a kidney transplant," Bush added. "Our hope is that the kidney disorder is not irreversible."

"Until two weeks ago, we weren't suspicious of any problems. This is very perplexing. She doesn't look sick."

Zoo officials said doctors would probably use a kidney from Hsing-Hsing or another giant panda if they did a transplant. Pandas, like other mammals, have two kidneys.

At the zoo's Panda House,

Ling-Ling — who received blood transfusion Tuesday — Hsing-Hsing — was resting after a morning meal, panda keeper Barbara Bingham said.

The panda, who also is on antibiotics, gave birth last summer to a 4.8 ounce male cub. It died three hours later of a respiratory infection.

The surprise birth was the first for Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, after eight years of attempts at natural mating and artificial insemination, and doctors anticipated another birth next year.

"This kind of threw a bit of the whole thing," Bingham said. "It doesn't look good. But we're hoping she'll pull through and surprise us once more."

White wants appeals court to review case, sentencing

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White said Wednesday he has asked the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to expedite a review of an armed robbery case that sent

a black engineer from South Carolina to jail for life.

White said he had written a letter to the appeals court and requested a speedy hearing and final determination in the case

of Lenell Geter, who was convicted in 1982 of taking \$31 in a robbery at a chicken restaurant in a Dallas suburb.

"I don't know whether this individual is guilty or not, but I hope the court will move swiftly," the governor said.

Geter's conviction and his subsequent efforts to clear himself were the subject of a profile Sunday on the CBS television news program "60 Minutes."

After nine of Geter's co-workers at E-Systems, an engineering firm in Greenville testified that he was at work when the robbery occurred, there were allegations that the conviction of the young black man was racially motivated.

White said he could not pardon Geter without a recommendation from the state Board of Pardons and Paroles, which, he said, is reviewing the computation of Geter's sentence.

"I'm following very closely the district attorney's office's response to the inquiry being made there," he said. "I think in this case if the man is innocent he should be declared to be innocent of the crime."

White said he was unsure of the implications raised in the "60 Minutes" program.

"What I know directly is what I've read in the newspaper, and

it appears the comments on '60 Minutes' were made by people who were not familiar with the case," he said.

"There are a lot of things going on in the prosecution of this case that may or may not be quite as clear as they appear to be but may become part of a case history that casts the results in a vastly different light," White said.

Earlier, a Dallas County prosecutor said the NAACP premature in announcing it had obtained an official examination of Geter's case.

NAACP attorney George Hairston called a news conference in Dallas Tuesday to announce that he had an agreement from Assistant District Attorney Ken Carden for Dallas County to re-examine the case and sentencing.

But Carden immediately denied he had made any agreement with Hairston or Geter's other attorney, Edwin Sigel.

"There will be no reopening of the case because there are no discrepancies" in the way it was handled, Carden said.

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