

Safety group tells parents of dangers

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported Tuesday that most Christmas toys now on the market are safe, but parents still should closely supervise their children when they play with toys.

The commission, in its annual pre-holiday warning, asked parents to be especially careful of balloons, which are safe when inflated but become potential choking hazards when deflated.

Chairman Nancy Steorts said that of the 16 toy-related deaths reported to the commission last year, five were caused by balloons.

She also warned about toys containing small parts, designed for older children but which toddlers under the age of 3 can take apart, try to eat and choke on.

The estimated number of toy-related injuries declined from 123,000 in 1982 to 118,000 in 1983, the commission said, praising manufacturers for taking safety precautions.

"The most common type of accident occurred not because there was anything wrong with the toy, but because the toy was not being used safely," said Steorts.

Taking note of the estimated \$4 billion worth of toys sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the commission warned parental Santas to beware of toy chests with unsupported lids that can crash shut, and small squeeze toys and tiny rattles that have the potential of causing choking.

"Crib gyms" are fine for tiny infants but can become hazardous when the child reaches about the age of 6 months, begins to attempt to stand up and becomes entangled, the report said.

The commission recalled 39 toys last year, with the cooperation of the manufacturers, and another 11 safety hazards were corrected, Steorts said. If the manufacturers fail to cooperate, the commission can take legal action.

What's up

Wednesday

STUDENT MEDIATION SERVICE: applications are available for volunteer student mediators in 108 YMCA.

TAU KAPPA: is selling Zipbusters Hunting Licenses in the MSC.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE: La Tertulia, the Spanish Club, is sponsoring a canned food drive for needy families. A donation box is in the Modern Language Lab, 126 Academic.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: is meeting for a Bible study at 7:30 p.m. in the Viking Apartments Clubhouse.

Sunday

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: is meeting at 10 a.m. in 301 Rudder.

Monday

CLASS OF '86: Reload for Elephant Walk at the Zip Busters party at the KC Hall from 8 p.m. to midnight.

PI SIGMA EPSILON: will be selling donuts and coffee in the Blocker Building from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

MSC MADRIGAL DINNERS: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 140 MSC.

Tuesday

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER: is meeting at 7:20 p.m. in the MSC main lounge. The picture will be taken for the Aggeland.

AGGIE GOP: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder. A new vice president will be elected and plans for next semester will be discussed.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Team of programmers wins 2nd in contest

Forty-four teams competed in the 1984 ACM South Central Regional Scholastic Programming competition held Friday, Nov. 16 in Austin. Texas A&M sponsored two teams, a graduate division team, placing first in division I and overall, and an undergraduate team, which placed third in division II.

The members of division I's winning team are: team captain Scott Boyd, Lily Barkovic, Guylaine Pollock and Tomas Rokicki. The members of the undergraduate team are: team captain Brian Napp, Tony

Overfield, Rick Rohan and Eugene Mazzurana.

The competition was one facet of the ACM conference's activities, which also included workshops, seminars and lectures given by industry spokesmen, ACM members and university researchers and professors.

The competition, the highlight of the ACM conference, was hosted by Baylor University and sponsored by Texas Instruments and Borland International.

Debt collection motive in Dallas bar shooting

United Press International

DALLAS — A gunman accused of killing one man and wounding five others while blasting away at patrons of a quiet, working-class bar went into the bar to collect a \$1,500 debt, police said Tuesday night.

Police investigator J.J. Coughlin said Charles Walter "Doc" Morrison, 61, of suburban Farmers Branch, went into the Webb Lounge "intending to confront several people."

Morrison is accused of squeezing off 10 to 15 rounds that killed one man, Clifford Smith, 54, and wounded Smith's wife and four others.

Coughlin said neither Smith nor any of those wounded were Morrison's intended targets. Coughlin would not give the names of those who owed Morrison money, but he said Morrison had stuck a gun in their faces and pulled the trigger; but the gun had not fired.

The Dallas Times Herald reported Tuesday that D.C. Collins and Clem Matthews reported Morrison had tried to shoot them, but his gun would not fire.

Neither could be reached for comment Tuesday evening.

After that initial confrontation, Matthews and Collins fled toward the back of the bar, and Morrison left. The Times Herald reported Morrison then returned with a rifle and opened fire on other patrons.

Coughlin said the shooting "was over money... It was supposed to be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,500."

"He didn't go berzerk. He had intended to confront several people," Coughlin said. "All the ones that are injured, he wasn't trying to confront really."

Morrison was being held in lieu of \$250,000 bond Tuesday night on a murder charge. Coughlin said attempted murder charges were being prepared.

Police reported Morrison had a record of violent behavior.

Police Lt. Ron Waldrop said Morrison was convicted in 1959 of assault to murder for firing shots at his estranged wife. His five-year suspended sentence was voided because of a legal technicality.

In 1961, he was convicted of illegal possession of a machine gun and served 10 months in the Texas Department of Corrections, Coughlin

Administration considering cutting veterans' programs

United Press International

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The Reagan administration is considering restrictions on such popular programs as veterans' health benefits and farm supports, officials said Tuesday.

As President Reagan tended to chores at his mountaintop ranch, officials acknowledged the drive to cut federal spending could touch on programs with powerful constituencies.

Deputy White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said a special White House working group asked the Veterans Administration in July for information that could be used to seek changes in health-care programs that cost \$8.5 billion last year.

VA spokeswoman Donna St. John said the request focused on the possible restriction of benefits to care for service-related injuries only.

While the type of changes considered could result in cost-savings, Fitzwater stressed the review was not motivated by deficit worries. "This is part of a general process," Fitzwater said. "It was not one designed to come up with money."

Officials said the options under

review included ending blanket eligibility for free health care by applying a financial need test for benefits, charging veterans a nominal amount for services or curbing benefits for treatment of conditions that are not service-related.

Health-care costs represent a sizable portion of the federal outlays targeted for possible cuts as Reagan and his advisers bear down on a deficit estimated to balloon to \$200 billion this year.

Veterans' programs were one of several areas identified by administration officials as ripe for cutbacks. Among the others were farm price and income supports — a favorite target of budget director David Stockman — and other middle-class benefit programs.

Fitzwater emphasized no final decisions on tens of billions of dollars in budget cuts will be made until Reagan winds up an eight-day Thanksgiving vacation and returns to Washington next weekend.

Fitzwater said the White House, as part of an across-the-board review overseen by presidential counselor

Edwin Meese, asked the VA and other departments in July to take a new look at health-care programs under their jurisdiction.

Although cost-savings were not the primary motivation, administration officials acknowledged they could be a major byproduct of any revision of those programs.

Fitzwater, in differentiating between this ongoing study and shorter-term deliberations over the fiscal 1986 budget Reagan will submit to Congress early next year, said the Meese review "will continue into the next year."

Among the other health program proposals being considered by the working group are taxing employer-paid health insurance above a certain ceiling; giving vouchers to Medicare recipients so they can buy private coverage and drop out of the federal program; and having Medicare cover the costs of "catastrophic illness" — the expensive stroke, for example, that can bankrupt a family — in exchange for having recipients pay higher premiums or routine hospital charges.

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