

Economists expect recovery

Analysts cite increased sales activity as sign of U.S. revival

WASHINGTON (AP) — Factory orders for durable goods rose 1.5 percent in January, the government said Wednesday. The report was seen as a fresh evidence that the once-stalled economic recovery is starting to pick up.

Analysts also pointed to the recent increases in retail sales, including automobiles, and growing housing activity among other signs of a slowly improving economy.

"We're now starting to see the resumption of the recovery, which may have started in the spring a year ago and stalled out in the fall," said economist Lynn Reaser of First Interstate Bancorp in Los Angeles.

"We're seeing the first glimmers of a revival in January," concurred Stephen S. Roach, an economist with Morgan Stanley & Co. in New York. "It's another tentative sign of an improved economic outlook in 1992."

The Bush administration also hailed the January increase as one of several indicators pointing to an economic rebound.

"I see robins on the lawn in the economy now," said Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady in a speech to the National Association of Business Economists.

Brady cited increased purchases of tires and light bulbs as signs that discretionary spending was picking up.

"I went out last weekend and bought two new tires," he said, adding that many Americans likely would do the same thing because they have put off such purchases and, now, "this country's tires are bald."

But many analysts caution that economic growth will be below-average and will not result in any substantive improvement in employment for months.

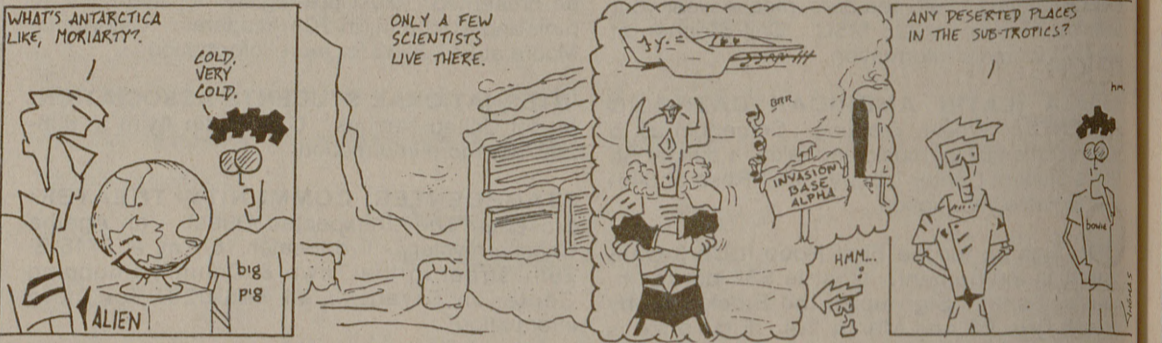
Orders for durable goods — usually expensive items such as cars and computers expected to last more than three years — totaled a seasonally adjusted \$119.6 billion in January, according to the Commerce Department report.

Spade Phillips, P.I.

by Matt Kowalski

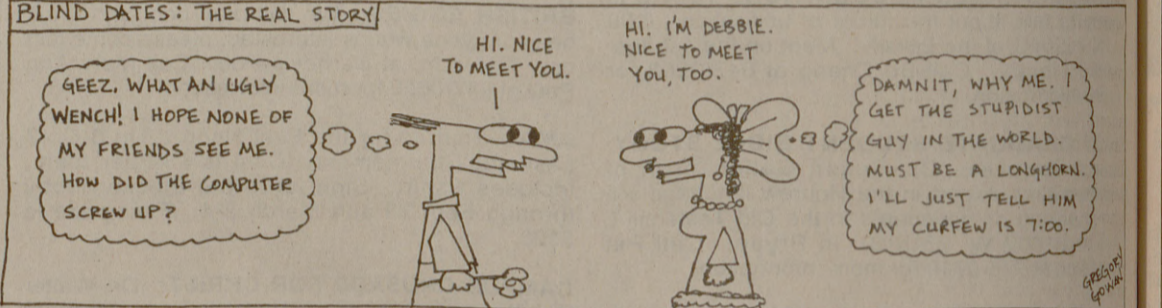


(the story so far . . .)



FISH OUT OF WATER

by GREGORY GOWAN



whoop

by William



Bush makes stand in South

ATLANTA (AP) — President Bush makes his next critical stand in the South, a region he swept in 1988 but where he's liable to encounter strong protest votes this time as he did in New Hampshire and South Dakota.

The politics of dissent, in fact, are emerging as a key factor in a Republican presidential race that Bush loyalists initially hoped would amount to second-term coronation.

Instead, the opening primaries of the 1992 presidential sweepstakes have uncovered what seems to be a widespread lack of real enthusiasm within the Republican Party for its incumbent president.

Republican challenger Patrick Buchanan has been focusing much of his attention on next Tuesday's Georgia primary. He's already made two campaign trips to the state in the past week and plans to return Thursday and stay through Monday.

His insurgent campaign is seeking to harness GOP discontent and, in Georgia, he is also actively wooing conservative Democrats. Georgia has an open primary law that permits crossover voting.

"I think we've got as big a surprise waiting for them in Georgia as we gave them in New Hampshire," Buchanan says. New Hampshire Republicans

gave Bush a weak 53 percent finish and Buchanan an unexpectedly strong 37 percent second-place showing.

Georgia is the first in a series of eight important southern primaries over the next three weeks. Buchanan says that if he can make a strong showing here, it will serve as a springboard into the rest of the southern states.

The South was Bush's firewall in the 1988 primaries, giving him a solid Super Tuesday set of victories that all but eliminated his GOP competition. He swept the South in the general election, picking up every southern state.

But Bush strategists are a little nervous now, particularly given the president's lackluster victory in Tuesday's South Dakota primary. Buchanan wasn't even on the ballot there, but Bush lost nearly a third of the vote to an uncommitted slate.

Bush loyalists blamed New Hampshire's calamitous economic downturn in large part for the president's poor showing there.

But the same argument couldn't be made for South Dakota, where the economy has been in relatively good shape and where unemployment is less than half the national average.

Smithsonian inaugurates 'Star Trek: The Exhibition'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The crew of the original starship Enterprise — Kirk, Spock, Bones and the others — is boldly going where no pop icons have gone before: on display in the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum.

"Star Trek: The Exhibition," which opens Friday and runs through Sept. 7, incorporates more than 80 props from the original television series, including phasers, costumes, a tricorder, fuzzy Tribbles and even a reconstructed transporter.

The retrospective examines the historical, political and cultural issues of the 1960s that were incorporated into the show, which ran weekly from 1966 to 1969 and spawned six movies.

But it's also a lot of plain old fun. Visitors can sit in Capt. James T. Kirk's chair (it's only painted plywood and Naugahyde) or get a close look at tiny Klingon battle cruisers and a model of the USS Enterprise.

They can also watch a 25-minute documentary film, prepared for the retrospective, featuring interviews with the show's principals, including creator Gene Roddenberry, interviewed before he died in October.

The exhibit is organized into categories, such as "A Cold War in Space," "Civil Rights and Urban Rebellion" and "Sexuality." The latter focuses mainly on Kirk's many interstellar and inter-species liaisons.

At a media preview Wednesday, museum officials and the actors who starred in the show described "Star Trek" with a reverence usually reserved for great works in science or the humanities.

"When you look at the biographies of the great pioneers in the field (of air and space), you find that time and time again, they were inspired by the stories of H.G. Wells and others who speculated about the future and the role that we as inhabitants of this earth would play in that future," said Martin Hewitt, director of the National Air and Space Museum. "Star Trek" did the same thing for the youngsters of the 1960s.

Mary Henderson, the exhibition's curator, said "Star Trek" rendered a vision of science and technology in which space travel would be possible and humans would be benevolent and wise.

Eight of the original cast members on hand for the preview said they didn't feel like icons, but believe the show has made an important contribution to American life.

Attorneys criticize cleanup proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some lawmakers say they're disappointed over the U.S.-Mexico border environmental plan unveiled by President Bush, saying there's not enough money to make a significant dent in the impoverished area's problems.

But others say the administration's \$241 million commitment for fiscal 1993 is the first step in cleaning up the polluted area, as is the \$460 million Mexico will spend over three years.

"I think that the (Environmental Protection Agency) has put together a good proposal," Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Wednesday. "I'm more encouraged by what the Mexicans are doing than I'm even encouraged by what we are doing."

But, he added, "I think we are putting together an excellent framework to assure that free trade and job creation occur at the same time as we dramatically improve the environmental quality of the border."

Gramm's views were at odds with those of Texas' senior senator. "Frankly, I'm disappointed in much of the border environmental plan," said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

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