NEWS FROM:

C-SPANERICA*S NETWORK

Suite 155 • 400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Release:

IMMEDIATE

December 4, 1985

Contact:

Liz Bauer Susan Swain (202) 737-3220

THE ADA'S TOY QUALITY SURVEY AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTINGS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- C-SPAN will bring cable viewers Yuletide cheer from the nation's capitol, when the network strays from its regular public affairs coverage with special holiday programming. Highlighting this month's holiday coverage are the following programs:

- December 13th, 9:00 pm EST, C-SPAN will air a taped press conference with the Consumer Committee of the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) on the committee's toy quality survey. Following the conference at 9:30 pm EST, Debbie Wager chairperson of the survey committee, will be C-SPAN's guest on a <u>live</u> viewer call-in program. Ms. Wager will answer viewer questions on the committee's annual toy quality safety report. (C-SPAN will reair this program package December 24th at 10:00 am EST.)
- On Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm EST, viewers can watch as House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill lights the Capitol Christmas Tree on the West Lawn of the Capitol. (C-SPAN taped this ceremony December 11.) The 54-foot white spruce from Ottawa National Forest, MI has been decorated with over 5,000 ornaments and 2,500 lights. The Capitol Tree lighting ceremony has been an annual event in Washington for nearly a decade.
- The "Pageant of Peace," at 10:30 pm EST, will conclude C-SPAN's Christmas Eve holiday programming. The ceremony, taking place on the grounds of the White House Ellipse, includes the lighting of the National Christmas Tree by President Reagan and seasonal music by the U.S. Air Force Band.

C-SPAN's round-the-clock public affairs programming can be seen in 23 million homes via nearly two thousand affiliated cable systems nationwide.

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C-SPAN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING FEATURES
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A Christmas Tradition Shines Forth on the Ellipse

By Anne Simpson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The National Christmas Tree's 1,200 lights—and some other luminaries—drew 12,500 visitors to the Ellipse last night for the annual lighting ceremony.

Just before 6 p.m., President Reagan flipped a switch in the White House and the 30-foot Colorado Blue Spruce was bathed in red and gold. The lights are brighter than ever, according to the U.S. Park Service, and slowly change to all red.

Also wearing all red was Willard Scott, the weatherman of the NBC "Today" television show, who played Santa Claus.

Joining Scott were two vacationing Floridians, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, and the Voices of Liberty singers from Disney World. Bands, including the Air Force Band, played Christmas music, accompanied by the chattering teeth of some onlookers.

In keeping with Christmas music tradi-

"... no boundaries can separate the members of God's family."

-President Reagan

tions, Jack Frost was nipping at the noses of folks dressed up like Eskimos, and many tiny tots with their eyes all aglow were held aloft by well-bundled arms as they stood together in chilly 50 degree temperatures.

Singer Tony Bennett sang the Christmas classic "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" with his daughters Joanna and Antonia.

The crowd watched the Reagans on a large video screen. Mrs. Reagan, dressed in red, held the First Family's new dog, Rex.

The president said in a brief speech that "no prisons, no walls, no boundaries can separate the members of God's family." He added that "greater than all mankind's military might [is] . . . godly love."

The Christmas Pageant of Peace will be on the Ellipse until Jan. 1. There will be music nightly and nine reindeer from the National Zoo are spending the season on the Mall. That is, every night except Christmas Eve.



BY DUDLEY M. BROOKS—THE WASHINGTON POST

CEREMONY OF THE LIGHTS

A chilly crowd on the Ellipse watched the National Christmas Tree blink on last night during a ceremony that included Mr. and Mrs. Reagan, singer Andy Williams and Willard Scott as Santa Claus. Story is on Page C3.

nesses as saying the bus ran a red light.

Brown was trapped in the vehicle for 45 minutes and was taken by police helicopter to the Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond, where he was in critical and unstable condition with multiple injuries, including a ruptured leg artery and a broken pelvis, hospital spokeswoman Stephanie Halloran said.

tried to get out of the way, but there was no way," Deiter said.

The impact of the crash crushed in the front of the bus and left a gaping hole at the front passenger row.

The tanker truck was loaded with oxide powder, a chemical, but none of the substance was spilled, police said.

It must have been a rear scene.

"They had to get a heavy vehicle with tracks to extract these vehicles," he said.

The driver of the Toyota, Hugh H. Davis, 25, of no fixed address, was charged in Fair-fax County with driving while intoxicated, refusal to take a blood or breath test, speeding to elude, driving with a suspended license and destruction of county property.



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ALMANAC DATA

SUN, MOON & PLANETS







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Moon Phases — GMT Jan. 10 Dec. 19 Dec. 27 Jan

Friday, December 13
Sun rises 7:18 a.m., sets 4:47 p.m.
Moon rises 9:18 a.m., sets 6:22 p.m.
Mercury — rises 5:33 a.m., sets 3:39 p.m.
Venus — rises 6:37 a.m., sets 4:11 p.m.
Mars — rises 3:01 a.m., sets 1:59 p.m.
Jupiter — rises 10:44 a.m., sets 8:52 p.m.
Saturn — rises 5:48 a.m., sets 3:44 p.m.

Uranus — rises 7:06 a.m., sets 4:32 p.m.

Planets rise in the East and set in the West, reaching their highest point in the north-south meridian midway between their times of rising and setting.

Source: U.S. Naval Observatory
Dial-a-Phenomenon, 357-2000

DEGREE DAYS *
DEGREE-DAYS WEDNESDAY: 15
DEGREE-DAYS THIS MONTH: 260
DEGREE-DAYS THIS SEASON: 741
NORMAL TO YESTERDAY: 959
DEGREE-DAYS LAST SEASON: 951

*The degree-day figure, an index of fuel consumption, indicates how far the day's mean temperature fell below 65.

AIR QUALITY NOON YESTERDAY: 30 for carbon monoxide—good range.

POLLEN COUNT: Discontinued for the winter.

EXTENDED AREA FORECAST for Sunday through Tuesday: Partly Sunny, much colder Monday and Tuesday. Chance of snow in the mountains. Highs 25-35, lows in the teens to mid 20s.

MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA: Rain possibly changing to snow, clearing by Saturday, highs from the teens to the low 40s, lows tonight in the lower 20s.

WEST VIRGINIA: Snow, mixing with rain and sleet, high in the mid 30s to lower 40s, low tonight in the teens to mid 20s. Saturday: Snow, high in the 20s.

LOWER POTOMAC/CHESAPEAKE BAY: Showers likely, poor visibility, improving tonight and Saturday. Waves around 1-2 feet tonight and Saturday. Winds southeast 10-20 knots increasing to 20-25 knots Saturday.

FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON AND VICINITY, DIAL 936-1212. WEATHER INFORMATION, DIAL 471-1741. LONG RANGE FORECAST, DIAL 899-3240. CHESAPEAKE BAY BOATING FORECAST, DIAL 899-3210 CONTINUOUS FM WEATHER BROADCASTS: 162.55 162.475, 162.40 MHz.

POTOMAC RIVER

The National Weather Service forecasts the Potomac River stage at Little Falls to be around 4.3 feet today. Levels above 5 feet are considered hazardous for recreational purposes.

DETROIT: Partly Cloudy through Saturday, high sin the mid 20s, low tonight in the upper teens.

HONOLULU: Sunny through Saturday, high both days the lower 80s, low tonight in the upper 60s.

KANSAS CITY: Partly Cloudy, high in the upper teens tonight around 5. Saturday: Sunny, high in the lower 20s

LOS ANGELES: Fair through Saturday, high both da the upper 60s to lower 70s, low tonight in the mid 40s

MIAMI: Partly cloudy, high in the lower 80s, low the mid 60s. Saturday: Cloudy, high in the mid 70s.

MINNEAPOLIS—ST. PAUL: Partly Cloudy, high zero, low tonight around 15 below zero. Saturday: C around 10 degrees above zero.

NEW YORK: Rain, high in the mid 40s, low tor upper 30s. Saturday: Windy, high in the mid 30s.

SAN FRANCISCO: Sunny through Saturday, his days in the mid 50s, low tonight around 40.

THE TIDES

At Washington Channel —Friday, EST High at 8:31 a.m. and 8:42 p.m.; low at 3:26 a.m. and High and low tides at the following locations may be obtain tracting the hours indicated from the hours above: Anni Bloody Point Lighthouse (4½), Deale (4½), Colonial Beach folk (1), Virginia Beach (¾), Solomons Island (6¼), Point

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