

points of view

Ah, the joys of a Christmas that is finished

Just a week until Christmas and all through the place the family is zoned out in pure hyperspace.

The tinsel is strung on the mirrors all high while the cats calculate whether felines can fly.

The Scotty is zooming around through this zoo playing "Bet You Can't Catch Me" with the kid from Grade Two.

She's dashing and dancing and squealing with glee. Then she loses her balance and knocks down the tree.

Mom's making the cookies. I'm cleaning the floors.

Big Brother's in hiding avoiding the chores.

I've just finished up with the dining room rug when the kid from Grade Two takes a break for a hug.

Then out in the kitchen we heard such a clatter I sprang to the door to see what was the matter.

The flour on the floor gave the room a strange glow and the specter that stood there was white as the snow.

She was covered with flour from her head to her feet and the moment I saw her my heart skipped a beat.



Jack Gladden

Her eyes, ooh, they sparkled. Her look was not merry. Her face was as red as a Michigan cherry.

The dough in the sink and the look on her face let me know right away I was in the wrong place.

"The cookies aren't working," she said with a growl, as I barely avoided

a flying dish towel.

"The dough is too soft and the room is too hot." And I ducked when I saw her reach out for a pot.

As dead leaves that in Michigan often do fly, I was sure that that pot would soon take to the sky.

But then tempers cooled down

(and so did the dough) and the Big Cookie Project was put back on "Go."

The dog had relaxed and was gnawing a bone and the kid from Grade Two was involved on the phone.

Big Brother appeared from the womb of his room and in just a few minutes was wielding a broom.

The cats were still eying the tinsel with greed but had not figured out how to manage the deed.

When dinner was over the dog wanted out and the kid from Grade Two

was asleep on the couch.

Big Brother had vanished back up to his room and the silence enveloped the house like a tomb.

Said Mom, with a terrible ache in her head, "I don't know about you, but I'm going to bed."

And I heard her exclaim as she crawled in her nest, "This will be over soon, and then we can REST!"

Jack Gladden is a copy editor at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township.

Boy-o-boycott! Here's a look at our future

Try this news story from the year 2001 for size:

President Patricia Schroeder provided a great opportunity for all Americans this year — rebuilding the almost totally collapsed economy.

An environmentally safe, unisex, people-owned set of companies must be our goal," said Schroeder in her State of the Union message.

Reconstruction is necessary because of the collapse of all the "Fortune 500" companies during the last decade due to boycotts. The gross national product — total of all goods and services — plummeted from \$5.2 trillion in 1989 to \$1 trillion currently — at inflated prices.

THE BEGINNING of the end came in 1987 when Chrysler Corp. signed up to sponsor ABC's miniseries "Amerika." It portrayed the peaceful takeover of the United States by the Soviets.

Chrysler's dealers and customers gave the No. 4 automaker a lot of heat for agreeing to sponsor it. Peace groups gave Chrysler even more heat for backing away. Every-

one agreed to boycott Chrysler's products.

A movie producer ultimately bought control of the firm and used its stock of unsold cars in a seven-movie series entitled "Demolition Derby."

In 1993, NOW, the National Organization for Women, brought Domino's Pizza to its knees. Before disposing of its stock, founder Tom Monaghan had contributed much of his profit to anti-abortion lobbies.

Domino's problems were compounded when every environmentalist group in the nation accused him of turning the countryside around its Ann Arbor headquarters into a sleazy Broadway of holiday lights. Their efforts doubled when Monaghan turned Drummond Island into a theme park, injecting bears with Valium so they could be petted.

DAYTON-HUDSON, parent of Target and Hudson's stores, succumbed when Right to Life instituted a boycott of its stores because of the company's support of Planned Parenthood.

Ohio was the first state to file for



Tim Richard

governmental, corporate and personal bankruptcy. The issue was ignited when lottery winners rejected Honda automobiles, made by a Japanese-owned company in Ohio but employing non-union American workers.

When Honda's Ohio plant closed shop, Ohioans boycotted every other kind of auto, and the other 49 states boycotted all Ohio products. By 1995, no Ohioan had a job, and all had aged, rusted autos.

ABC, The Detroit Free Press and Meijer's — a broadcaster, newspaper and retail chain, respectively — closed shop in 1994 after blacks boycotted their allegedly racist practices.

THE WHITE HOUSE said rebuilding the U.S. economy would start

with Mea Culpa Inc., a printing firm. Mea Culpa accounted for half the shrinking GNP by printing standard apology forms used by target corporations to placate boycotters. A target corporation would buy stacks of the forms saying the firm totally, completely and without reservation apologized and renounced its offensive behavior and would change all its policies. The president would fill

in two blanks — the company name and the offended group — and mail them to all who protested.

Unfortunately, the form also promised the company would cancel dividends and dedicate 110 percent of its profits to anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-abortion, anti-polluter and anti-war community groups.

This led to the collapse of the stock market because no one wanted to invest when every corporation was suffering a loss.

Schroeder said a new source of in-

vestment capital would have to be found because no one audited what the anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-abortion, anti-polluter and anti-war community groups did with the corporate profits they had received.

"These are times of great challenge. But working together, I believe we can build a new economy," the president said.

Tim Richard reports regularly on the local implications of state and regional news.

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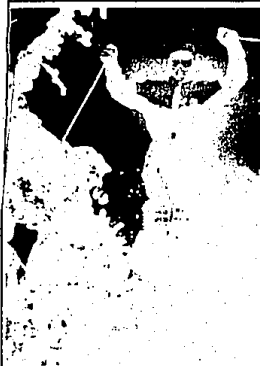
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