COLLEGE GETS GRADUATION DATE WRONG

Seniors graduating in May have been given a commencement date that doesn’t exist.

In a packet mailed in early November to graduating seniors, the Registrar’s office included, along with other important information, a memo from the Bookstore which said, “Graduation for Daemen College will be Sunday, May 12, 1990.”

Such a date isn’t on the calendar. It doesn’t exist. The correct graduation date is Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 13, 1990.

Students are properly expected to take graduation seriously. We want to think the College also takes it seriously.

The failure to proofread or to check for accuracy causes us to think, however, that the College might be running on autopilot.

WEATHER DAMPENS BUS TRIP WEEKEND

by Terri Papaj

The social highlight of the Fall semester came rolling into campus in November, arriving with a bang, but leaving with a whimper.

Bus Trip Weekend, a major student recruitment effort, began under rainy skies, proceeded through its ho-hum routine, peaked with the traditional Fall semester Air Band contest, then plummeted to the bleary departure of potential Daemen freshmen.

The Weekend started Friday with high school students busing onto campus and finding their host rooms. After their first Daemen dinner, the weekenders went to two social functions, neither of which was well attended or exciting enough to keep people in attendance.

Approximately 30 people showed up for the Friday night bonfire. One weekender mentioned the bonfires at her high school were bigger than Daemen’s. Similarly, at the Nut and Bolt Dance, there was so little participation that the people there soon left to go elsewhere.

Saturday night, after a day of viewing the Daemen campus, the weekenders attended the Air Band climax of this semester’s Bus Trip. Vinny Syphilis and the Infection won the Air Band contest. “We all had tests to study for,” said Vinny Chiarmonte, the leader of the band, “so we didn’t practice. We just took songs we had done from previous Air Bands.”

After the contest, people drifted back to their rooms to end another rainy day. Bright and early the next morning, the weekenders bused out toward home, taking with them (we hope) fond memories of Daemen.

HOLIDAY INSERT THIS ISSUE: PAGES 5 TO 8
MONEY MATTERS

ANIMAL RESEARCH ON CAMPUS APPEARS HUMANE
by Tracey Tricoli

Daemen’s animal-research ethics appear to be on the up and up.

Daemen gets its animals from two sources: Carolina Biology Supplies; and Wards, in Rochester. According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, both practice the highest ethical standards. Carolina Biology, for example, takes animals that animal pounds have gassed.

Dr. Robert Gunther, Chair of the Human and Animal Research committee, says any experiment involving animals must be approved. He says the committee has never had a problem making an ethical decision, primarily because most experiments use animals that arrive on campus already dead, with the exception of frogs, which are sedated so they don’t feel pain.

STUDENT WAGES TO RISE
by Terri Papaj

On April 1, 1990, the minimum wage scale will rise from the present rate of $3.35 to $3.80. The following year will see another jump to $4.25. Though Daemen administration applauds the rising pay scale, the College as of now is uncertain how it will administer the new law.

“The new scale’s long overdue,” says Frank Balcerzak, Vice President for Business Affairs. “The old scale of $3.35 is behind the times.”

However, both Mr. Balcerzak and Helen Lukasik, Director of Financial Aid, say the College is uncertain about the matter due to the lack of guidelines from the Department of Education. Currently, the Federal government allocates funds to cover 75% of work-study scholarships. The other 25% is contributed by the College. Additional funds from the Federal government to cover adjusted salaries of work-study students aren’t guaranteed. “My assumption is the college will kick in the difference,” says Ms. Lukasik.

Another possibility is that beginning in April, work-study students will be required to reduce their hours in order to avoid running out of their scholarships so quickly. Students will receive the full amount of their scholarships; they will just work fewer hours for the same money.

It is also unclear whether the College will follow the provision which allows an employer to pay 16 to 19 year old employees less than the minimum wage if they’ve never worked. The “training wage” can be paid for six months, then the employer must pay the minimum wage. According to Mr. Balcerzak, the College hasn’t decided whether to enforce the training wage, though now the College waives a legal subminimum wage of $2.60 in favor of the current minimum wage.

Regulations for the new minimum wage are due in about a month. “Until I get them, it’ll be pure speculation on my part as to how this whole thing is going to be administered,” says Mr. Balcerzak.

MEN AND WOMEN IN FILM: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Blue Angel is a stunning German movie about a straitlaced schoolteacher’s obsession with a strip tease dancer.

Little Theatre, Monday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.
ACADEMIC MATTERS

STUDENTS LOVE/HATE PROBATION

by Steve Field

Many Daemen students soon might find themselves on academic probation. To some, it will be a dreaded and unnecessary punishment; to others, it’ll be a chance to straighten out their grade problems.

Academic probation alerts students to the fact that they are facing suspension or even dismissal if their GPA stays below 2.0.

The Committee on Academic Standards, which meets each semester, sends a letter to each student in academic jeopardy. This letter may limit the credit hours the student may take, and it may assign the student to an academic support service. For instance, a student may be assigned to take a special course, or may be sent to the Learning Center, to study with a tutor, or may be referred to the Career Development office, to receive advice about a career change.

“Students who keep receiving poor grades,” says Associate Dean of the College Karin Kovach-Allen, “face possible suspension or dismissal. This dismissal is for a year. They can then reapply to Daemen.”

Students get on academic probation for a couple of reasons, according to Eric Zinnerstrom, Assistant Dean for Academic Services. One reason is the lack of “distributive learning.” Students don’t study an hour each day for each class.

Another reason is the student/teacher personality conflict. A supportive teacher motivates students who then make good grades, whereas a callous teacher will have students who make poor grades.

Students have mixed feelings about academic probation. One said that probation has caused him to study more and to become more serious about his classes and his life.

Another student, Joe Shivinsky, says the Committee on Academic Standards lacks both a sense of reality and compassion. Mr. Shivinsky feels the Committee is too rigid.

COLLEGE OFFERS NUMEROUS ACADEMIC RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS ON PROBATION

by Steve Field

The student on academic probation has several ways to insure good grades.

One is a class called Strategies for Success in College, where students learn time management and note taking skills. Students also learn to handle stress and improve their self concept.

The Career Development Center can measure a student’s career interest. Students can take one of two measurement tests which suggest a career that would be of the student’s liking.

Students in search of specific academic help can go to the Learning Center in Canavan Hall. At the Learning Center, students can study with tutors in courses like math and English.

THE ASCENT IS ACTIVELY SEEKING STAFF WRITERS.
IF INTERESTED, LEAVE MESSAGE AT WICK CENTER.
OR ATTEND FIRST STAFF MEETING:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1990, @11:30 A.M.
PUBLICATIONS ROOM, WICK.

December 1989
UP IN SMOKE

DAEMEN TO ENTER THE NEW DECADE SMOKE FREE
OR, GET OFF YOUR BUTTS

by Ann Hynes

Beginning January 1, 1990, Daemen will follow New York State regulations, set forth by Governor Mario Cuomo, which will prohibit smoking in College buildings. The upcoming smoking ban will be in full effect when we all return after the winter break.

According to a national survey, sixteen percent of college students nationwide are smokers. An informal survey indicates that this figure is consistent with the percentage of Daemen students who smoke.

Specific smoking regulations—such as no smoking in classrooms and restrooms—have been in place at Daemen for some time now. The new regulations will extend the ban to the entire Duns Scotus building, unless a room is designated a smoking lounge, and all of Wick will be smoke-free except for a designated smoking section in the Rathskeller. No other smoking areas will be designated as such. Smoking will still be allowed in the dorms.

Smokers won’t like this change. No longer will faculty be able to smoke in their offices. No longer will students be free to smoke in the halls on their way from one class to another. And ‘smoking in the boy’s (and girl’s) room’ will be prohibited as well. As a result, non-smokers will no longer have to put up with second hand smoke, overflowing ashtrays, and butts on the floors.

This drastic change need not be traumatic. We should avoid an ‘us against them’ attitude. Non-smokers should remember nicotine is one of the most addictive drugs legally available without a prescription. And with the stress of school, grades, papers, tests, and other pressures, it’s not easy to quit. Smokers, on the other hand, should remember that non-smokers have a right to breathe smoke-free air. In other words, smokers will no longer be allowed to force their habit on others.

All of us—smokers and non-smokers alike—need to be prepared for the impact of the new smoking regulations. We don’t want to come back in January and be shocked by the sudden restrictions.

Now’s the time for making New Year’s resolutions. Maybe now would be a good time to quit.
Dear Santa,

Christmas is just around the corner, and New Year’s Eve isn’t far behind. A year will end and a decade begin. It’s hard to believe the 90’s will be starting. Nevertheless, I have some ideas about presents.

Let there be peace on earth. It looks like the Cold War is ending, I’m pleased to say, yet some parts of the globe still know war. Let the fighting and killing stop in places like El Salvador and the Middle East.

And make all of us aware of the environmental injuries we inflict upon the world. Make us stop destroying the rain forests and polluting the seas. Make us stop killing whales and dolphins and elephants. I’m afraid there won’t be any animals left if the slaughter doesn’t stop.

And if you could, shelter the homeless and feed the hungry.

Mr. Elf

Dear Santa,

Please take into consideration I’m failing only one of four courses. So—here’s my list.

I need $211 to cover bounced checks. Another $25 will pay the service charge. My tires are looking mighty bald, so bring me four new Goodyears. Make that five—I’ll need a spare.

I can’t be seen wearing the same jacket as last year, so I’ll need a new one. My office party’s in two weeks, so I’ll need a new dress, too. Could you send that early, preferably by next-day air in case I have to send it back if it’s not to my taste?

I could use new lungs. Exams are around the corner, and my old ones are charred from smoking. And I wouldn’t reject a new stomach. Ulcers have eaten my present one.

I want these things, Santa, but don’t really need them. If you must, take care of the people first who need food, homes, clothes, and jobs.

I realize that you can’t do it all yourself. I pass boxes everyday where we fortunate people can give food and toys and clothes to the needy. I’ll drop something in. And if you could change just one needy person’s life, I’ll pass on my Christmas list.

Ms. Elf

December 1989
Just as now is the time to decide what you want for Christmas, it is also the time to decide what you are giving.

“It’s better to give,” says Nadine Johnson, who is giving her mom a blue vase. “I like watching her open the presents I buy for her.”

One generous student plans to give an inexpensive gift. “I’m going to give everyone some good advice,” says Von Oliver. “It’s practical because it’s cheap,” he says.

“I’m giving cards,” says Terri McDonald, a gift which she says is practical, not because she’s a Scrooge, but because, like most students, she doesn’t have the money to be extravagant.

On the other hand, Vicky King is giving a present which doesn’t require knowing the size or color preference of the person receiving it. “I don’t have to worry about gift certificates being returned,” she says.

Other students are expecting to receive gifts. Chris Lewis says he will accept whatever anyone wants to give him.

“I want money. Lots of money,” says another student, speaking for a lot of others. Mike DeFrancesco, for example, wants to win the lottery so he can pay his tuition bills and graduate.

Kristen Planz would be happy if the College would send her all C’s.

One student wants a somewhat unusual gift: a swimming pool, complete with dolphin.

Although three weeks are left in the year, a lot of Daemen students have already begun to make their New Year’s resolutions.

“Next year,” says Pam Frank, “I’m going to manage my money and make better grades.”

Kristen Planz, Von Oliver, and Mia Santiago are all thinking of their health. They resolve to stop smoking, as should perhaps all Daemen smokers since, starting next year, there’ll be numerous, new smoking restrictions.

Bridgett Herrod says she’ll be “a little less hostile” toward her fellow students.

Gianna Ruddock, who wants some solitude, resolves that next year she will be left alone.

“I’m going to stop biting my nails,” says Chris Smith.

Stay tuned. We’ll follow-up these resolutions next semester to see how well they’ve been kept.
SPIRITS AND SAFETY

Daemen students looking for a break before leaving campus for the holidays will find numerous festive diversions in downtown Buffalo.

Take the transit system downtown to look at the holiday window displays at AM&A’s and other department stores. Streetlights along the rapid transit line are decorated with wreaths and lights.

Across the street at the Main Place Mall are other holiday decorations. In addition to the usual lights, there is a model train set of classic locomotive cars.

The Friendship tree is worth seeing, too. Given by Canada, the brightly decorated tree stands in Lafayette Square, surrounded by landmark buildings, including the Lafayette Hotel and Public Library.

In the mood for a holiday play? The Studio Arena is producing Galileo, which runs until December 31, and the Alleyway Theatre is producing Dicken’s A Christmas Carol, which runs until December 24.

The Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls runs until January 7, 1990. The Rainbow Mall is nearby, complete with stores and eateries.

Many of us will be celebrating the holidays with alcohol. Some of us might try driving home. And if we do, we’ll risk being dead.

“We can hold our liquor and drive, too,” we say. “It’s someone else who drinks and wrecks.” How wrong. Two years ago, I was at a Williamsville bar with friends. We were having a few holiday drinks. A friend of mine who wanted to go downtown tried to persuade us to go with her, but nobody wanted to, so she went alone.

My friend fell asleep at the wheel of her car, which had come to a stop in the middle lane of the thruway. Another car slammed into the back of my friend’s car, and my friend was killed.

If you’re at a party over the holidays, and a friend is drinking, don’t let him drive. Or if you’ve been drinking, don’t drive. Call a cab instead. Call a parent. Call a sober friend. If you’re out and don’t have money for a cab and there’s no one else to call, call a policeman.

In New York State, where alcohol is involved in approximately 55% of fatal collisions, there were 744 alcohol-related fatalities in 1986. There were 801 in 1987, and 735 in 1988. In Amherst, during the last three years, there have been 10 alcohol-related accidents.

“I can only offer common sense advice,” says Officer Mike Dailey, an Amherst policeman. “Have a designated driver.”
With the end of the holiday season marking the end of a decade, two students are reflecting upon the 80's, recalling events—good and bad—that none of us are likely to forget.

“I know many consider the 60's as 'the turbulent age,' and it was,” says Patricia Zappia. “But I feel the 80’s had its share of ups and downs, too. Our Marines were killed in cold blood. AIDS couldn't be stopped. Little kids were dying in droves from alcoholism.”

Ms. Zappia also has some positive memories.

“The Berlin Wall was taken down, and that’s something many of us wouldn’t have believed possible,” she says. “We also made great strides with abuse victims: spouse abuse, child abuse, and animal abuse are all no longer treated lightly. Communities now get involved. And people, no matter how old, are seeking a college education.”

Another student’s retrospective flashback includes many personal, local, national, and world-wide events. “I started college, was able to vote, and got my driver’s license,” says Joseph Rizzo.

Locally, he remembers the Lesser Blizzard of ’85, the opening of Pilot Field, the closing of Crystal Beach, Jim Kelly’s arrival in Buffalo, the 1980 Rolling Stones Tour, toxic waste dumps, and last, but not least, the increase in the legal drinking age.

On the national level, Mr. Rizzo remembers the Challenger disaster, the NFL and baseball strikes, Reaganomics, increased homelessness, and the San Francisco earthquake.

He also remembers the deaths of John Lennon and John Wayne, the oil spill in Alaska, the finding of the Titanic, as well as the dramatic rescue of Baby Jessica, the historic nomination of a woman for Vice-President, and the devastation of Hurricanes Charlie and Hugo.

And there was scandal, as well as controversy: Bakker and Swaggart crying on TV, repenting their sins; Vanessa Williams relinquishing her Miss America crown due to Playboy photographs; and crowds picketing The Last Temptation of Christ.

World-wide, Mr. Rizzo recalls the China massacre, the Nicaraguan war, Haley’s Comet, Polish solidarity, the assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II, arms talks with the Soviet Union, the bombing of Libya, and the bombing of the US Stark.

It seems the 80’s held so many events that it’s hard to imagine what we’re in for in the 90’s. But as long as Elvis Presley is hanging around for yet one more decade, we can handle anything.
GRADUATION PROFILES

SENIOR THINKS FONDLY OF DAEMEN

by Tshana Cooper

Among the graduates in May will be Tjwana Dennis, a history and government major. In 1986, Ms. Dennis came to Daemen because she was attracted by the student-teacher ratio. “My professors know who I am,” she says. “I’m not a social security number to them.”

Several professors—Drs. Ruth Stratton and Joseph Sanko, for example—have influenced her life and her future goals. After graduating, Ms. Dennis plans to work at the Human Resources Administration for a year, then she plans to enter graduate school.

“Here at Daemen I’ve had some good times and some bad times,” says Ms. Dennis, who was recently inducted into Pi Gamma Mu, the Social Sciences honor society. “There were times when I wanted to pack up and go home, but Daemen gave me the incentive to persevere. I can’t thank the College enough for that.”

SENIOR HAS HIS DOUBTS

by David Brothman

Some of us are asking, “Am I sure I want to graduate?”

I know—you think we’re nuts, it’s the end of our next-to-last semester, and we’ve been up one night too many. But think. Look at your future. At this scenario, . . .

. . . you’ve graduated, you’ve gotten a job to pay off your college loans, and Daemen is constantly asking for an alumnus donation. Come on! you say. Give me a break! I spent at least $7000 a year, of which over half I had to borrow, and now, no less than a year after my graduation, my alma mater is wanting me to donate money to it.

And things get worse. Say you want to go to graduate school. Add another three years of academia to your life.

Let’s get serious. There are some good things about graduating. You can start your profession, make a salary of 30K, get married, have kids, buy a house, and pay the mortgage.

Ah—like Jimmy Stewart says, “It’s a wonderful life.”
IMPORTANT MATTERS

TTM MAJORS
TRAVEL INTO
ROSEY FUTURE

Co-op to Jump Start Careers

by Tracey Tricoli

Transportation and Travel Management (TTM) majors are preparing for a career in the largest retail industry in America.

TTM majors study all aspects of the travel industry. Air cargo, international tourism, domestic airline reservations, hospitality, and conventions are all among many of the areas covered. To say the least, an industry that generates more than $411 billion dollars in revenues and creates 64.3 million jobs worldwide has a great need for highly trained management professionals.

Even before they graduate, TTM majors have the opportunity to co-op in the industry. Karen Zullo is working at the ticket counter with USAir. Michael DeFrancesco is working as a front desk clerk at the Lord Amherst Motel in Williamsville. Both Ms. Zullo and Mr. DeFrancesco say they are gaining valuable experience.

Bruce Kratzenburg, proprietor of Seasons in the Sun Travel Agency, in Williamsville, offers this advice to TTM majors. “Stick with the big agencies and airlines,” he says. “They offer more benefits.” For instance, employees of major airlines often can fly to cities serviced by the airline free of charge. And that’s a nice way to travel.

STUDENTS DISCUSS ABORTION

by Tshana Cooper

Female and male students here at Daemen appear to have extreme differences in opinions concerning abortion. Whereas females (and some males) view abortion as a difficult but practical decision, many males are flip or even chauvinistic about the matter.

Females for the most part say that their education requires all of their emotional and financial focus. As a result, if they were to get pregnant, they would have an abortion.

“I have my education to think of,” says Tarsha Williams. “I couldn’t face the additional responsibility of raising a baby.”

“If I knew I couldn’t support a baby financially and emotionally,” says Kim Smith (’92), “I’d have an abortion.”

Some males have a similar outlook. “Supporting an abortion would depend on my situation,” says David Berger. “Am I still in school? Do I have a job that pays me enough to support a baby?”

Most males, on the other hand, either wash their hands of the matter, or they act possessive and chauvinistic.

One male removes himself from the situation by saying his decision would be based upon his relationship with the girl. “If she was just a one-night-stand,” says James Jones, “I’d want her to have an abortion.”

Another male also avoids the situation by assuming the girl would be the only one affected by a birth. “She’s the one who has to bear the baby,” he says. “It’s going to have more of an impact on her life.”

A third man is possessive as well as threatening. “When my girlfriend threatened to have an abortion,” says Von Oliver, “I told her, ‘Whatever you do to my baby, I’m going to do to you.’”

Weather Report

As of December 3, Buffalo has had 9.3 inches of snow. And winter hasn’t even started.
CAMPUS MATTERS

STUDENTS QUESTION SA
by Tshana Cooper

“Student Association hasn’t done shit,” says Dahveed Harris. SA, however, says the organization is doing a lot. According to SA President Andre Lillard, the Student Association has sponsored six off-campus activities, such as the Maid of the Mist boat ride in Niagara Falls and a trip to the Eaton Center in Toronto. Tickets for both of these events were sold for less than $5.

A major campus event was the End of Summer Picnic, and upcoming events include a game show contest in February (t-shirts will be the prizes) and the Electric Video Dance Concert in April.

SA has also purchased three VCR’s and a copier, and is now in the process of buying a typewriter that students can sign out for private use. SA is also responsible for extending the Communication Skills hours.

Students, however, think that purchases like VCR’s and expensive copiers have little practical use for the student body. “SA can do more for us students,” says Eric Agosto. “They have the power.”

“This campus is stagnating,” says Mr. Harris, “and SA is doing nothing to stop it. Every year people go without books. SA could supply books for people who can’t afford them.”

Tarsha Williams says that “SA should sponsor a wider variety of extracurricular activities.”

SA, however, says that students—like Rasak Williams who asks “What Activities?”—complain about things but don’t act upon what they want. “They need to participate,” says Mr. Lillard. “We need people to come in and get involved. There is only so much that SA can do. There is more strength in numbers,” he says.

HAVE AN
EBULLIENT,
ELATED, EUPHORIC,
EXCITED, EXHILARATED,
EXCITED, STIMULATED,
TURNED-ON,
HAPPY NEW YEAR

GREEK FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES PLEDGE NEW MEMBERS
by Tracey Tricoli

Daemen’s four Greek organizations are stronger than ever this semester after pledging new members.

Scott Skinner was recently crossed over into Phi Beta Gamma. His pledging lasted for two weeks, and he says the time was well spent.

A new member of Sigma Phi Epsilon says that his pledging has helped him to learn to manage his time and has given him an incentive to do well in school.

Lori Ann Green was recently made a member of Lambda Chi Iota. Her pledging lasted four weeks. So far in the sorority she has planned parties, seen movies in the Rat, and helped with a flower sale.

Caryol Mazzi speaks proudly of her sorority: Sigma Omega Chi. Her sorority never drops anyone, she says. Pledges who survive the experience are always crossed over. Sigma Omega Chi pledges next semester. The sorority spent the Fall semester letting potential pledges observe the sorority sisters.

None of the Greek organizations openly discuss the details of pledging, though one brother says that hazing consists mainly of pranks like goose chases or other harmless gags.
**WARRIORS GET NEW COACH**

**SILVERI IS FOURTH COACH IN FIVE YEARS**

by Terri Papaj

For the fourth time in five years, the Daemen Warriors are playing basketball under the direction of a new coach, this year under the direction of a coach who resigned from Erie Community College in 1986, after admitting to changing the grades of his players.

Replacing Richard Jacobs is Don Silveri. “So far things are looking good here,” says Coach Silveri. “I have a good bunch of people to work with and I’m looking forward to the challenge of coaching the team.”

Mr. Jacobs says he left Daemen for an administrative position at Villa Maria College in Buffalo. “The timing’s tough,” he says, “but the move is an opportunity to improve my professional life.”

Athletic Director Don DelBello, however, blames the frequent changes in the coaching staff on the competitiveness of the schedule. “We started at the bottom of the scale and worked our way up,” says Mr. DelBello. “Previous coaches lacked the power or the ability to work under the pressure that comes with keeping a successful team going.”

Mr. DelBello has complete confidence in Coach Silveri. “It’s a tough world out there,” says Mr. DelBello. “If mistakes were made, the Coach survived them, and he’ll continue to survive.”

The players also seem to have confidence in the new coach, though some are concerned that the high turnover rate of coaches adversely affects the team. “There’s no foundation for a program when we go through so many coaches,” says veteran Mike Bliss.

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**WARRIORS WIN HOME OPENER IN TRIPLE OVERTIME**

Dave Skolen scored 32 points to lead the warriors to a 115-111 triple overtime victory to open the Daemen Warrior home schedule.

The Warriors (4-1) trailied by five points in the second overtime with only a few seconds to go, when Rob Robinson sank a long three pointer. The Bobcats then turned over the inbound pass and Skolen hit a two pointer to tie the game at the buzzer.

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**DAEMEN WARRIOR HOME SCHEDULE**

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<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Brockport State</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
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