

'Buy America' measure retained in defense bill

The Pentagon has dropped its opposition to controversial legislation that would direct the US to shun overseas suppliers in purchasing parts for essential weapons systems.

The bill, which had faced a threatened veto from the White House, was watered down in negotiations between Duncan Hunter, the House armed services committee chairman, and Paul Wolfowitz, deputy defense secretary. In a "discussion draft" dated September 10 obtained by the Financial Times, the Pentagon is given wider authority to disregard the provision, permitting the defense secretary to grant waivers "in the interest of national defense".

But the new language would still force the Pentagon to issue the waivers on a product-by-product basis, which could cause significant delays.

"We would be sending a very strong signal to our trading partners that we were trying to eliminate international suppliers from our defense programs," said Jon Etherton of the Aerospace Industries Association, which represents defense suppliers. He said that, in practice, such waivers were rarely issued.

The "Buy America" measure, which was inserted into the annual defense authorization bill by Mr Hunter, has been watched intensely by arms manufacturers in both the US and abroad who fear that huge extra costs may be imposed.

The failure to strip the entire measure from the bill has angered John Warner, chairman of the Senate armed services panel, who this week wrote to cabinet officials warning it would harm US allies that had assisted in Iraq and Afghanistan, a clear reference to the UK. He said he feared "trade retaliation" if the measure were passed by Congress, which could "jeopardize our \$50bn annual trade surplus in aerospace products".

Andy Card, White House chief of staff, headed a meeting on Friday of top administration officials to consider the issue.

Editors note: This is a small victory, however, some legislators such as John Warner are working hard to strip the entire "Buy American" language from the defense spending bill.



USW A Local 831 has purchased the rotating billboard at Danville Plaza (Value City). Local 831 urges its members and the community to Buy American and Buy Locally. The children featured are some of our members children.

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Employers Offer Less to Retiree's

Fewer employers are providing health benefits for retirees, according to a study published in the medical journal, Health Affairs. Retirees age 65 to 69 receiving employer-sponsored health insurance fell from 46% in 1996 to 39% in 2000. Prescription drug coverage declined from 40% to 35% during the same period.

"This is very alarming since any new prescription drug benefit sponsored by congress won't be available for several more years, and even those proposed benefits are likely to be far less than the benefits most retirees already receive," said Bruce Stuart, the study's leading author and a researcher in the University of Maryland's School of Pharmacy.

The decline in benefits was highest among men and would have been higher if not for men seeking coverage under their spouses' plans.

The drop in benefits has declined in a very short period of time, and bodes poorly for the future if the trend continues at the same pace.



MINUTES

October 8, 2003

Vice-President Willie Fitzgerald called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was by James Smith.

The October 1, 2003 Board Minutes were read. Kenny Stevens questioned as to why the Board rejected his request to be sent to the Rapid Response Conference in Florida on November 18-20. After much discussion, a motion was made to send Kenny to the Conference with all expenses paid. Motion seconded and passed.

Kenny gave a report on activities of his position as the Soar District 8 Coordinator.

Door prizes won by Catherine Williams and Castel Keen. Both won a free oil and lube change from Perry Bros. George Waller and Joe Price each won a free oil and lube change from Gold Adkins of the Goodyear Store on Mt. Cross Road. Jimmy Gross won 50-50.

The members enjoyed the Brunswick stew. Thanks to all who worked to make it a success. Also, thanks to John Giles who so kindly furnished biscuits to the early morning workers for breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

Race to GED for a Better Life

USWA Local 831 was asked to join UFCW Local 400 in a drive to gain 2,400 GED's and/or High School diplomas. This feat is being pushed by the Adult Education Center for the counties of Franklin, Pittsylvania, Patrick Henry and the cities of Danville &

Martinsville. Regional Program Director, Stacy Wright explained the program to Local 831 & Local 400 representatives and asked for our help in promoting the "Race to GED" in our plants and unions.

Basically, the drive includes state funding to help anyone who fell short in reaching his or her high school graduation. If you are a few credits shy, they will help you obtain

those credits and you would be provided with a diploma for whichever county you would have graduated from. If you dropped out in the earlier years, they will test you for the GED and work with you until you are ready to take the state GED test.

"Our skills in the new century will depend not only upon our ability to create jobs, but also upon our ability to ensure that our citizens have the skills to compete," stated Governor Mark Warner. Governor Warner attended the kickoff to the "Race to GED" which was held at the Martinsville Speedway. The racing theme is being used because we are in a race to make this happen. One of the biggest issues in getting future economic development is being able to prove you have the skilled workforce to fill the jobs. If we can reach the goal of 2,400 people obtaining their GED, we have facts to show, we have the people and they are skilled.

- A region's capacity to grow and attract new business and industry is significantly impacted by the education level of its workforce.
- State tax revenue is generated as individuals improve their literacy and subsequent employment status and purchasing power.
- Adults with a high school or GED have an unemployment rate substantially lower than those without.
- The movement of individuals away from public assistance improves their quality of life and the state budget.

The program offered is anonymous and anyone living in one the listed areas can get their necessary diploma or GED without any cost to them. To register or for any questions you may have call: 1-800-804-6357.

Getting your GED can help you:

- Obtain gainful employment in any major company in the area.
- Enter a four-year college, community college or technical program.
- Advance your position and training with a current employer.
- Prepare for the future in which 80% of all jobs will require some college or technical training.

This program is not only available to our members, but their spouses and children, neighbors and other relatives. If you are interested, take a few minutes to call the toll-free number.



L to R: Dana Dixon (Communications Coordinator Local 831), Donna W addell (Community Affairs, UFCU Local 400), Stacy Wright (Regional Adult Education Program Manager), Mickey Harris (Local 400 Representative)



October Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its' regular membership meeting on October 9, 2003 with President Danny Barber presiding. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Prayer led by Benny Toller followed by the Pledge of allegiance
- Roll call of Officers- All were present. - Recording Secretary, Brenda Miles read the minutes from the September 11, 2003 meeting and they were approved as read.
- Reading of the Executive Board report was approved as read. The following items were agreed to:
 - Motion to deny sponsorship to the Sixth Annual WCA Coca Cola Classic Golf Tournament. (Individual School function)
 - Financial Secretary, William "Stick" McLaughlin presented the financial report for September and it was approved as read. Brother McLaughlin made a motion to accept (1) rejoining member with no exits. Motion carried.
 - Pension and Insurance Representative Benny Toller reported on Open Enrollment starts Nov.10,2003, COB forms will be mailed to everyone and they "MUST" be mailed or faxed back to Goodyear Medical Benefits Dept.(See P&I Report)
 - Civil Rights committee member

Wayne Dickerson gave a report on the Civil Rights Conference held in Detroit, Michigan.

- Chairman of the COPE committee, Byron Taylor reported on getting members to sign up on the petition to get Richard Gephart on the Democratic ballot for President.
- Dana Dixon, Communiations, reported on Local 831 sponsoring the 2nd hole at the Ed Steffy Memorial Golf Tournament and the "Race to GED".
- Linwood Saunders of the Welfare and Education committee reported on completing your education thru the "Race to GED" (See story in this issue) at the PM meeting.
- Vice-President Terry Trull reported on the accident on #4 Tuber and applauded the ERB team and Maintenance for their professionalism in handling the situation, also he discussed the recent visit to Gadsden, Alabama plant to view their "Lead Hand" concept
- President Danny Barber gave these points of information:
 - Urged union members to review the voting records of candidates running for office
 - Support candidates who support working people
 - District 8 Conference
 - Tool Kit talks
- Stuart Lovelace and Linwood Saunders won the 50/50 drawing

- C. E. Burger Jr. cc#5141 name was drawn for the attendance prize of \$50.00; the member was not present so the November prize will be \$75.00.
- Motion to go into Special Meeting for the purpose of nominations for election of officers and to select an election committee; motion carried.
- See story on Nominations of Officers to see who is running.
- Election Committee will consist of 6 members from the 7:30am meeting and 2 alternates and also the same at the 7:30pm meeting. Members who were interested in serving on the election committee placed their name in the barrel and were drawn out and that is how the election committee was formed.
- Chairman of the Election committee will be Jimmy Davis.
- Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

Get Well Soon!

Local 831 Officers and representatives are asking everyone to continue to pray for the recovery of our union brother Reginald Venable who was involved in an accident on #4 Tuber. If anyone would like to send a card to Reggie, send it to: Room 2205, Duke, North Medical Center Durham, North Carolina 27710.

October 13, 2003

Dear Members of USWA Local 831:

You are hereby notified that Election of the following officers will be held by Secret Ballot on Tuesday, November 11, 2003 and Wednesday, November 12, 2003 from 5:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. both days at the Goodyear Danville, Va. Plant. Run-off Elections, if necessary, will be held Tuesday, November 18, 2003 and Wednesday, November 19, 2003. Absentee Ballots will be permitted if any member whose work requires them to be more than fifty (50) miles away from the polling place during the time of election, if they are prevented from appearing at the polls because of service in the armed forces or vacation. The request for such absentee ballot must be made in writing to the chairperson of the election committee which is Jimmy Davis, 111 Brook Circle, Danville, VA 24541. Phone: (434) 822-1343

Fraternally Yours,

Danny M. Barber, President USWA Local 831

President

Danny Barber

Vice-President

Terry Trull

Recording Secretary

Brenda Miles

Financial Secretary

Wm "Stick" McLaughlin

Treasurer (1)

Dana Dixon

Sandra Hairston

Barry Austin

Fuzzy Melton

Guide (1)

Jerry Harris

Ricky Austin

Roger Dockery

Guards (2)

Ricky Miles

Wayne Dickerson

Byron Taylor

Tony Powell

Trustees (3)

Sylvester Mayo

Gloria Gravely

David Payne

Scott Davis

Policy Comm. Member (1)

Benny Toller

Division Chairmen (4)

(1 per Division)

Division I

Jeff Coleman

Jimmy Newcomb

John Hooks

Division II

Irving Lawson

Division III

Jeff Dixon

Mark Long

Greg Gammon

Division IV

Butch Robinson

Mark Powers

Note: Nominations are subject to eligibility requirements.

Member Chatter

Why did you participate in the Political Action Fund (PAF) drive at Local 831?

■ "I felt the need to help workers. Too many jobs are going overseas and we need to support the legislators who support workers on trade issues."

Caren Holmes, Dept. 1110, "C" Shift

■ "We need a voice with our politicians. They need to hear us more so that they vote like the people they represent think."

Rex Miller, Dept. 2541, "D" Shift

■ "We have got to stop sending our jobs overseas. Having connections to legislators that want to halt NAFTA can only help our cause." **James Simpson**, Dept. 2541, "C" Shift

■ "It seemed like the right thing to do, supporting legislators whom support workers." **Rocky Fletcher**, Dept. 2541, "B" Shift

Note: Local 831 has now signed up over 1,100 members in the PAF. This may be the best of all locals in District 8.

Member Photos were not available this month.

RETIREES

Congratulations to the following retirees. We wish them much success in their future endeavor's and hope they can fully enjoy their union negotiated retirement benefits.

Cecil "Chick" Gaffney,

Scottie Hawkins, Ricky Pritchett,

Ronnie Owens, Athur Gwynn,

Paul Southard, Smokey Taylor

EDITOR'S COLUMN

What's it gonna take to make it right?

As President Barber has stated during various meetings over the past few weeks, this contract has been one like never before. Issues have been different and ways to attack those issues have also been different. Never before have we ever been able to gain any language that would provide any range of job security. That job security provision alone will not make it right for Local 831 or any other local in the master agreement. There is a tremendous feat ahead of us. Real job security is going to come at the hands of the workers. We must accept the challenge that ownership provides. Not blaming any individual leadership regime locally or internationally, but overall the Goodyear leadership has really gotten us into a predicament. The master contract is behind us and our local union leadership is busy working on the lead hand concept and the "toolkit" talks, which must generate \$22m savings. It appears we have two options in the toolkit talks, 1) gut the contract and lay-off workers or 2) get busy on the issues we can control. We can have a major role in waste reduction and overall managing of the business. The lead hand concept that has worked great, according to Gadsden union officials is the first step in reaching our goals. For every lead hand implemented we get a dollar amount credited toward the \$22m. The lead hand is one of the toolkit items that is mandatory, the local decisions made will simply be where we can use them most effectively. The Gadsden officials state that they encountered a little friction when the concept was first implemented but now they would have a "wildcat strike" if Goodyear tried to bring back the area manager philosophy. We've said it for years, "if they would only listen to the people on the floor, we could make this place roll". Well, that time is here. For the survival of our plant, let's all take a little more ownership in what we do. Treat everyday work as if you for doing it in your own business. So, what's it gonna take to make it right? It's in our hands!

Dana Dixon, *Managing Editor*

PENSION & INSURANCE

Points of Information

* Anyone that retires after October 1, 2003, will revert back to their old insurance plan until January 1, 2004.

* The \$1,620 that retirees get on or about January 1, 2004, 2005 and 2006, the company is taking the position that they are going to hold on to the money and put it towards the retirees medical benefits premiums.

* If a retiree opts out of the company benefits plan, he/she will not receive the \$1,620 nor will they be reimbursed the \$50.00 for their Part "B" Medicare premium.

* The working spouse provision includes the retiree.

* Employees that are on layoff will have their premiums accessed to them.

* Employees on A&S, the company is looking at having premiums deducted from their A&S checks.

* The company is still working on spousal reimbursement, but it will be taxed as income.

* Open enrollment for active employees will be November 10-21, 2003.

* COB forms will be mailed to each employee before the end of the year, this form "MUST" be filled out and mailed or faxed back to Goodyear medical Benefits Dept. in Akron. Failure to send the form back will result in your spouse being treated as if they have other coverage, and the bills will not be paid. If your spouse does not work the form must still be sent back, if you have no spouse and have dependent children the form must still be sent back.

* If your spouse coverage does not include prescription drug coverage, you must take family coverage so that your spouse can have drug coverage.

* ALL MAIL RECEIVED FROM GOODYEAR FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, PLEASE READ IT!

USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

285 Shady Grove Road
Providence, NC 27315-9477
(336) 388-5537 • FAX: (336) 388-5009
USWA District 8 • www.uswa831.org

■
Danny Barber
President and Editor

■
Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

■
Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



Questions Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Dana Dixon, Gloria Gravelly, Danny Travis or your Division Chairman.

When do the medical benefits for a child end?

Your dependant child remains on your Goodyear insurance until the age of 19 unless they are a full-time student. A few weeks before the birth date of a dependant child, Goodyear will send a letter letting you know that the benefits will be ending on a specified date. The letter will also tell you what steps you need to take to continue coverage if your child is a full-time student.

Pension & Insurance Web Sites

Hourly Active

<https://member.express-scripts.com/preview/goodyearunlopactive>

Hourly Retiree

<https://member.express-scripts.com/preview/goodyearunlopretiree>

TRICK OR TREAT
THE CREDIT UNION!

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

Date: October, 31st
Time: 3PM to 5PM
Location: URW CFCU
Who: KidzClub Members
What: Trick or Treat URW
Employees & Party!

URW Community Federal Credit Union believes in family safety! That's why every year we host a Halloween Party for our ghoulish and boy Members!

First, Kids will trick or treat each office of the credit union and then we will go upstairs for a Halloween Party with a \$25 prize for both girls best costume and boys best costume, plus a keepsake photo of each child in a frame they make themselves!



URW
We're Where You Are

434-793-1278
www.urwfcu.org

All Kids must be members of URW and have their own accounts. No kids over age 12 permitted. All Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Seating is first come first serve.

Rules for Investing

in Today's Stock Market

Edward Jones

Hershel Stone - 836-4717

Chris Eastwood - 791-2595

ANXIETY: *Friend Or Foe?*

Anxiety is a normal response to clear and present physical danger. It can be used as a useful tool to motivate a person to focus their mind on a task when there is a deadline looming. Anxiety can energize you, enabling you to accomplish tasks; i.e., tax returns, specific task deadlines at home or work, etc. However, anxiety becomes problematic when it persists and continues far beyond the immediate "threat".



Sometimes, there is an obvious underlying cause for anxiety, such as war, tragic death, devastating events such as the World Trade Center bombing, 9-11-2001 and/or para-scarred citizens. At other times, however, there is no definable reason for why people worry.

An anxiety disorder is what health experts call any anxiety that persists to the point that it interferes with a person's life. There are many forms of anxiety disorders. The top five anxiety disorders include: panic disorder; specific phobias; obsessive-compulsive disorder; posttraumatic stress disorder and generalized anxiety disorder.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has revealed that stress and anxiety disorders are spreading to epidemic proportions. According to Dr. Allen Schwartz, a psychiatrist in private practice in New York City, many individuals with anxiety disorders are undiagnosed.

They present to their primary care providers (pcp's) with physical complaints, but do not discuss their life stressors (a combination of both positive and negative events). Because of the stigma often attached to "mental" health issues, people do not like to admit that they may be having some problems emotionally, and they may not understand how much emotions affect a person's physical health. It is much easier to explain a backache or a headache, than "feelings". Like lost pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, this lack of information prevents physicians from obtaining a clear "picture" that would enable them to more accurately assess their patients' needs. The unfortunate end result is often a partially treated illness, with incomplete diagnosis and inaccurate prescribing of treatment and medication.

Dr. Schwartz indicated that we are living in the "Age of Anxiety". The divorce rate is over 50%, and "blended" families are more numerous than ever before. Children are growing up, emotionally "pulled" between two family units, and adults are trying to parent not only their own biological children, but also those children who are brought into the new "blended" family by new spouse. There is an economic recession currently, and many people are fearful of losing their jobs, with no immediate hope of obtaining another one. Anxiety-producing headlines loom across the daily newspapers, and boom across the airwaves morning, noon, night by television, radio, and computer. Informative, detailed stories of terrorism, crime at home and abroad, and catastrophe around the globe, complete with vivid, horrifying pictures, fill television and computer screens everywhere. The "tell all" agenda of the news media today prompts both adults and children to "worry" about the safety of mass transit and air travel, public schools, purchased food, drinking water in their homes, their neighbors and peers, and even the safety of their own back yards.

With "maxed out" credit cards and second mortgages, even two-income families are struggling to maintain the "American Dream" lifestyle, which encompasses an economically staggering abundance of the "right" jobs, cars, computers, housing, hobbies, education and designer clothes/shoes for themselves and their children. People are seeking to further their education, and that of their children, in an attempt to "improve" themselves, and are moonlighting at second, or even third jobs in an effort to fund an ever-demanding budget. Already tired and stressed from their workday, adults are

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coming home to look after their children, who are starved for whatever parental attention they can get, be it negative or positive. Families with single parents or both parents employed, blended families and joint custody, swing-shifts, meals "on the go", homework, extra-curricular activities, office work brought home by deadline stressed or career-oriented adults, and conflicting schedules have all resulted in creating a situation where family members are more like ships that pass in the night than complimenting parts of a whole. Is it any wonder both children and adults are feeling the strain, and paying the price, of our stressful society?

Add to this mix the fact that Americans, especially individuals working in continuous operation situations, are notoriously sleep-deprived, which takes a severe toll on physical and emotional health. With sleep

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ANXIETY: Friend Or Foe?

deprivation, people are more likely to become irritable and have outbursts at work and at home. They find it increasingly difficult to control their emotions in response to real or perceived insult/injury, setting the stage for, among other things, domestic violence, as well as alcohol and substance use/abuse by both adults and children.

Anxiety disorders are considered to be the number one mental illness in the United States. According to WHO, 19.1 million Americans, that is, 13.3% of the adult US population, ages 18 to 54, are affected. These statistics do not include the elderly and children who also have anxiety disorders.

- Only 19% of those with anxiety disorders who visit primary care physicians receive appropriate care.

- Anxiety disorders cost the US more than \$42 billion a year, almost one-third of the \$148 billion total mental health budget for the entire country.

- More than \$22.84 billion of those costs are associated with the repeat use of health care services, as patients with anxiety disorders seek relief for symptoms that mimic physical illness. Individuals go to their family doctors, call rescue squads, and visit emergency rooms repeatedly as they seek relief for emotionally based physical ailments.

- Individuals with anxiety disorders are five times more likely to go to their doctors and six times more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric disorders than other sufferers.

- An estimated 10% of the caseload that medical doctors treat is people with anxiety disorders.

Life events, whether happy or sad, positive or negative, produce stress, and stress helps create anxiety. The effect is often cumulative, rather than all-encompassing. When enough stressful events build up, individuals become overwhelmed. This accumulation of stressful events contributes to

Did You Know?

- 2.4 million Americans have lost their health care since 2000
- 110 million children have no dental coverage
- Congress has approved 84 billion dollars to rebuild Iraq and provide health care for the people of Iraq (How about a little health care for Americans)
- 43.6 million in the U.S. today that have no health care
- 600,000 workers have lost their job in the U.S. since the year 2000

Didn't Really Care to Know!

- Donkeys kill more people annually than airplane crashes
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise
- A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight
- Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined
- Marilyn Monroe had six toes
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first class
- Apples, not caffeine are more efficient at waking you up in the morning
- Women blink twice as much as men
- It is physically impossible to lick your elbow
- A snail can sleep for three years
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why

what eventually becomes an anxiety disorder, requiring medical intervention and treatment.

Gwen Yarbrough, *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*
(*Spouse of Union Member, Jeff Yarbrough*)

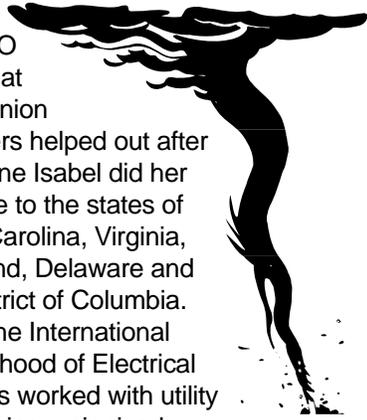
Next Month - *What Can You Do?*

Hoffman Chiropractic
799-4000

Union Members Help Out After Isabel

The AFL-CIO says that many union members helped out after Hurricane Isabel did her damage to the states of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. While the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers worked with utility companies, unionized firefighters, police and other first responders rescued victims and provided safety during the storm and after. Teamsters delivered truckloads of dry ice and other essentials to distribution centers and many state and local union workers coordinated other relief efforts.

Communications Workers of America helped to restore communications in hard hit states. Community Service Agencies of labor councils throughout affected states coordinated efforts to help families affected by the disaster.



We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Andre Baldwin, Terry Calhoun, Dana Dixon, Jeff Dixon, Sam Dixon, Rodney Hairston, Chales Hubbard, Jerry Jones, Ricky Miles, Kevin Miller, Michael Price, Sheppard Shelton, Sr.

U.S.W .A. Local 831
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 2003 CALENDAR						
October BD 26	AC 27	AC 28	BD 29	BD 30	AC/Halloween "Trick or Treat" 31	November AC 1
AC 2	BD 3	BD Election Day Vote 4	AC 5	AC 6	BD 7	BD 8
BD 9	AC 10	AC 11	BD SOAR Meeting 11AM 12	BD Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM 13	AC 14	AC 15
		Election of Officers				
AC 16	BD 17	BD 18	AC 19	AC 20	BD 21	BD 22
		Runoff Elections (If Neces.) National Rapid Response Conference				
BD 23	AC 24	AC 25	BD 26	BD 27	AC 28	AC 29
				Thanksgiving - Plant Holiday		
AC 30	December BD 1	BD 2	AC 3	AC 4	BD 5	BD 6