



Photo by Bob Baker

Tomato crossing

A tomato is preaching the plight of the small business person in the Eugene area.

Actually, it is the owner of a small business, dressed as a tomato, giving the sermon.

Ben McClurg, owner of the House of Salads, a business that claims to have the "world's longest salad bar," is turning several shades of red because he has been told that it is against city ordinance to hand out flyers advertising his restaurant.

Tomato Man, as McClurg introduces himself, says that City Hall is squashing his unique advertising efforts.

McClurg says that the city's attitude is prohibiting the growth of Eugene's small businesses.

"They told me that they didn't want Eugene to become another New York," McClurg says.

After being ousted from the mall area, McClurg called the University to see if he could promote his business on campus. He says that he was told "he could hand out flyers as long as he didn't sell anything."

Wednesday afternoon, Tomato Man cropped up at the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street.

British declare war zone; Argentina 'ready to fight'

FALKLAND ISLANDS (AP) — Britain on Wednesday declared a "total" war zone 200 miles around the Falkland Islands. Argentina's navy was reported in the zone ready to fight and the United States warned the situation had reached a critical point.

The Defense Ministry in London said the "total exclusion zone" would take effect at 7 a.m. EDT Friday, and the British Broadcasting Corp. said there was a strong possibility of a British attack Friday night or Saturday morning.

The BBC said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has "taken her gloves off."

British defense sources said weather conditions in the South Atlantic were "deteriorating rapidly, with 70 mile-an-hour winds on the way," heightening speculation that Britain's armada would act quickly.

Argentina, while saying it was studying a U.S. peace plan relayed by Secretary of State Alexander Haig, put its forces on "maximum alert" and predicted a British attack on the Falklands in 24 to 48 hours.

Argentine naval sources in Buenos Aires said the nation's fleet was deployed in the South Atlantic, including the announced "total exclusion zone."

"We're doing all we can through diplomatic channels to avoid a war, but if they (the British) want war, they will have it because we will have no alternative but to defend ourselves against an attack," said one of the sources, who requested anonymity.

In Washington, a senior State Department official who declined to be identified said, "We are now at a point where it is almost imperative that the two sides agree" to U.S. proposals to end the conflict.

Regarding the British war zone announcement, Dean Fischer, the State Department spokesman, said, "It is quite clear in light of this announcement that the crisis has reached a critical point."

He also said consideration was being given to another meeting between Haig and Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez, who was in Washington for a meeting of the Organization of American States.

The war zone announced by the British Defense Ministry extended the maritime blockade of April 12 that was designed to prevent Argentina from reinforcing the Falklands by sea. Argentine planes have continued to fly in troops but large ships have kept out.

The announcement bolstered

speculation that Thatcher, her patience exhausted with Argentina's failure to withdraw its troops after seizing the islands on April 2, is now ready to order the British armada to recapture the Falklands in an all-out assault.

British government sources reported a Cabinet meeting held shortly before the war zone announcement produced "no fresh optimism" that a negotiated settlement can be reached.

"The situation is extremely tense," one British defense source in London said. "The government is now turning the thumbscrew and applying psychological and political pressure on Buenos Aires," a reference to the total war zone that makes any unauthorized ship or plane in the zone subject to attack.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that a squadron of between six and nine long-range Vulcan bombers has been positioned on Ascension Island, 3,500 miles north of the Falklands.

British defense officials said last week that some of the Vulcans have been adapted to carry 21 conventional 1,000-pound bombs.

British press reports speculated that the Vulcans will be used to bomb mainland Argentine air bases before any assault on the

Falklands, to reduce Argentina's 12-1 air superiority over the British armada.

"The Vulcans have been undergoing intense training in using conventional bomb loads and mid-air refueling," the source said. The bombers would need to refuel in flight on any missions from Ascension.

The Argentines have an estimated 10,000 troops on the Falklands. The British task force carries some 1,500 marine commandos, but the requisitioned liner Canberra, carrying another 2,000 marines and paratroopers, is expected to rendezvous with the armada before the weekend.

British defense analysts forecast the task force may launch two or three coordinated attacks, including jet attacks on the airstrip at Stanley, the Falklands' capital.

British forces recaptured South Georgia, 800 miles east of the Falklands, on Sunday and Monday. The British Defense Ministry said an Argentine prisoner on South Georgia died Monday in a "serious incident."

It gave no other details. The British took 156 Argentine military personnel and 38 civilians prisoner in the attack, including the Argentine submarine Sante Fe crippled in the attack.

Local humorist calls for 'fertility dances'

EUGENE (AP) — Oregon humorist James Cloutier says native-born Oregonians may have to engage in fertility dances in order to build up their ranks.

The Eugene artist and author of several light-hearted "Orygone" books, reacted to a 1980 census report that non-natives outnumber those born in Oregon by about 200,000.

"It just reaffirms my belief that native-born Oregonians are an endangered species," Cloutier quipped.

Cloutier also created a line of Oregon "ungreeting" cards — a witty attempt to discourage immigration to the state — and SNOB, Society of Native-Oregon Born, which he says has about 2,500 members. He says he gets about 15-20 new applications for the group weekly.

"Our society will not admit defeat in the face of recent census statistics," he says. "We're going to band together more than ever."

On a serious note, Cloutier says he expects the percentage of Oregon natives will change with the declining economy. He predicts the immigrants will be the first to leave.

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