



**IN THE NEWS**

Top stories from the state, nation and world

**Little Rascals owner loses appeal; charges will stand**

EDENTON — A former day care center owner lost his request Monday to have new sexual abuse charges dismissed, even after calling the prosecutor to testify.

Robert F. Kelly Jr., 48, was indicted in April on eight counts of molesting a girl who did not attend Little Rascals Day Care Center here.

Treatment of children at the center was the heart of the longest and most expensive criminal case in North Carolina history.

Kelly was convicted in 1992 on 99 counts of sexual abuse involving 12 children. He was sentenced to 12 consecutive life prison terms.

The conviction was overturned last year by the state Supreme Court, which ordered a new trial.

The new charges filed in April allege that in 1987 Kelly molested a girl who now is 18 and living in Texas. The charges are expected to be tried early in 1997.

"There was an upping of the ante after a successful appeal," argued attorney Gerald Beaver of Fayetteville.

**Court upholds Calif. ban on 'junk' phone calls**

WASHINGTON — In action sure to please many Americans aggravated by the latest in "junk calls," the Supreme Court on Monday let stand California's ban on fully automated telephone sales pitches.

The justices, without comment, turned down a businessman's argument that two California laws imposing the restrictions violate his free-speech rights.

The laws — similar to those imposed by the federal government and at least 40 other states — restrict the use of machines that automatically dial telephone numbers and play prerecorded messages.

**HISTORIC**  
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Payne also pointed out the economic advantages of preserving the McDade house as well as other historic homes.

"An important way of keeping the town's character is through its historic buildings," he said. "Preservation of character is certainly an economic benefit."

Robert Humphries, director of the Downtown Commission, agreed. "The historic residences speak of by-gone days," he said. "They're part of what make downtown Chapel Hill downtown

Such devices can be used only if a live operator first identifies the sponsor and gets the listener's consent to play the message.

The federal law and both California statutes have been upheld by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In other matters Monday, the justices: ■ Rejected the appeal of a woman convicted of blocking access to a Milwaukee abortion clinic two years ago, turning away her contention that she wrongly was denied a jury trial.

■ Upheld Ohio's latest congressional redistricting plan despite a former congressman's complaint that drawing new electoral districts has become too political.

■ Heard arguments by California fruit growers who invoked their free-speech rights in a bid to escape federally imposed mandatory dues for generic advertising of their crops. The court's ruling, expected by July, could have a major impact on how farm goods are promoted.

**Mother Teresa reads Bible as her condition improves**

CALCUTTA, India — Mother Teresa was in critical condition and using an oxygen mask Monday, but the 86-year-old nun showed signs of recovery as she sat in a chair reading a Bible, the hospital said.

Doctors were worried about the condition of her kidneys and lungs following a heart attack and an angioplasty, but still were optimistic that the nun would recover enough to return to her work of caring for the poor.

"I am very hopeful and I am sure Mother will survive," said Dr. Patricia Aubanel, one of seven doctors treating her.

However, he added that her kidneys were not working well because her heart had been malfunctioning for several months.

**NASA hopes Mars rover faces no further delays**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA scientists hoped Monday for no further delays in launching a Mars spacecraft carrying the first-ever interplanetary rover.

The Mars Pathfinder was to take off aboard an unmanned rocket early Monday, but rain, clouds and strong winds pushed back the launch by 24 hours.

Chapel Hill."

The historic district draws tourists and locals to the area, said Jay Parker, President of Weaver Street Realty and Auction Co. "People like the historic district. It's a kind of magnet."

Parker described the character of the houses as "rich and diverse in terms of architectural styles and periods. The historic houses and their materials and workmanship aren't replaceable," he said.

In an ideal world development and preservation would co-exist, said Terry Abernathy, director of the Economic Development Commission, who thinks

NASA's Global Surveyor was launched in early November and is already on its way to Mars. A Russian spacecraft launched a week later plummeted from orbit.

Pathfinder should beat the slower Global Surveyor to Mars by two months, landing on July 4, 1997.

Several hours after Pathfinder parachutes down, the petals on the spacecraft will unfold; a six-wheeled, 23-pound rover will come out to roam the Martian surface, examining rocks and beaming back data.

NASA has until the end of December to launch the \$196 million Pathfinder on its 310 million-mile journey.

After that, scientists would have to wait two years until Earth and Mars are back in the necessary alignment.

**Volkswagon stock price falls due to alleged spying**

FRANKFURT, Germany — Volkswagen stock fell nearly 5 percent Monday on fears that the German automaker may be forced to pay billions of dollars to General Motors Corp. for alleged industrial espionage.

Analysts said share prices may continue to drop as long as the threat of damages remain, with the market speculating that damages could range from several hundred million dollars to as much as \$5 billion.

So far, the falling share prices have accounted for about \$4.5 billion worth of Volkswagen's value, said Brian Wilkinson, German stock analyst at HSBC James Capel in London.

"The market doesn't take any chances — and may not rest easy until that full amount" is accounted for in the share price, Wilkinson said. VW shares ended floor trading in Frankfurt on Monday down 29.50 marks (\$19.67), or 4.8 percent, at 587.00 marks (\$391).

The first real indication of what GM wants in the way of damages may come Tuesday, when both sides return to court in Detroit to discuss how the trial will proceed and whether an out-of-court settlement is likely.

The shares of Germany's largest automaker slid 6 percent last week after GM won an important ruling in a United States federal court saying the U.S.'s largest automaker could use racketeering laws to pursue its case, which automatically would triple any damages.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

this solution is possible in Chapel Hill.

"I don't see a direct conflict between development and older buildings," Abernathy said. "Many buildings have been saved because of development around them. I don't see the two in conflict at all."

Abernathy cited the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, and Carr Mill Mall in Carboro as examples of where development and preservation went hand-in-hand. "These places became attractions after the areas around them were developed," he said. "Development generates an interest in money to save the sites."

**Mentos art gallery, big hair pages top random year-end web site list**

■ Unique web sites get their chance to shine in 1996's final Site Seeing.

It's the end of the year and like every other publication, I feel I should do a year-in-review of the World Wide Web, or something to that effect.

But how can you document a medium that changes daily and even every 10 seconds? I decided to compile some of "the best of" the more unique, random if you will, sites I've stumbled upon. Some are funny, on purpose or by accident, but either way, they're sure to provide laughs if you're procrastinating during finals.

One of my favorites, the Mentos home page at <http://www.mentos.com> wins first prize for "we have too much time on our hands." Don't get me wrong, a lot of creativity went into the site that has a Mentos art gallery and about a 20-page FAQ. But Mentos?

The Mentos gallery contains famous art works with the Mentos logo morphed in. The creators shed new light on Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and the Venus de Milo. The Frequently Asked Questions section gives a play-by-play synopsis of all of those goofy pseudo-Euro commercials. Sections are also devoted to pertinent information such as some Mentos history, the jingle lyrics ("The Fresh Maker") and finally, the proper way to

eat Mentos ("They must be born, squeezed out of the wrapper and gently placed in the palm of the hand").

**Site Seeing**



by Jessica Banov

Other computer-altered art can be found at the Gallery of Advertising Parody at <http://www.dnai.com/~sharrow/parody.html>. Well-known advertisements for products such as Marlboro cigarettes, Absolut Vodka and Gap clothing have been transformed to look like the original, but with a twist.

Speaking of twisting, french twist that is, the Style Texas Big Hair page at <http://www.dallas.net/~styletx/home.html> shows the best of big hair from around the country. The site's creator admits that big hair is not for everyone, but nonetheless, provides how-tos on achieving that teased hair-sprayed look that we all want to have.

Click on the desired coiffe of choice and step-by-step photos will guide you in creating your own do. Or if you don't have the materials to flip your hair up, try on a digital wig.

To see more great hair, or lack of, take a swing at Fabio or Tori Spelling at the Celebrity Slugfest at <http://slugfest.kaizen.net/index.html>. Pick the meeny or wuss you'd like to take on, including Bill Gates, Dave Letterman

and Mr. Rogers, and throw a punch.

More stars can be found at the Midi Karaoke web site at <http://geocities.com/Broadway/3386> "where you are the star." Choose from a range of songs to croon to: "We Are the Champions," "Hotel California," "Stand by Me" and probably the worst, "Macarena." Once you make it to the "audition," lyrics come up and you can belt away.

If you are still star-struck, there might be a reason. The UFO abductee test at <http://tucson.com/ufotest> will ask you questions such as "Have you ever dreamed you saw or were on a spaceship or flying saucer?" or "Have you experienced 'missing time?'" to determine if you really have been abducted. If so, you can send away for the Abductee Recovery Package to disconnect you from any negative experiences you might have had.

Finally, to reconnect to reality through household appliances, the Random light bulb joke page at <http://www.crc.ricoh.com/~marcush/lightbulb/random.cgi> will bring you back to Earth. Every 10 seconds, a new joke appears about how many (fill in the blank) it takes to screw in a lightbulb.

An even better question might be how many (fill in the blank) does it take to create really random web pages like these.

If the Oscar rewards the best cinema and the Grammy is for best music, what is the name of the award for the best web site? E-mail [jbano@mail.unc.edu](mailto:jbano@mail.unc.edu) with suggestions.

**Balanced budget prospects hopeful**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — After years of summits, stalemates and just plain neglect, 1997 promises the best opportunity yet for the White House and Congress to finally shake hands on a deal aimed at balancing the budget.

It won't be slam-dunk easy; formidable political and policy obstacles remain. But with the economy robust, presidential elections over and both sides saying publicly that they crave such an agreement, Republicans and Democrats start out with fewer, lower hurdles.

"The planets really are aligned this year," said Robert Reischauer, former director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, who thinks a pact is likely.

Unlike two years ago, President Clinton and many congressional Democrats now voice acceptance of the GOP's premise that federal deficits must be eliminated — by 2002. Clinton does not face re-election and has less to gain by casting

Republicans as coldhearted budget-slashers. Looking to his legacy, he has even said if he could achieve only one thing in his second term, it would be balancing the budget.

Months of budget bargaining failed last January but left the two sides within shouting distance of each other's proposals for tax cuts and savings in Medicare, Medicaid and other programs. And most Republicans, who in 1995 unsuccessfully tried ramming their budget priorities down Clinton's throat, now hail compromise and incremental action, with even House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., predicting an "implementation Congress" next year.

"There is no locked-in anything," House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, said recently about GOP demands. "The only locked in is we'll balance the budget by 2002 with no smoke and mirrors."

Some Republicans, speaking on con-

dition of anonymity, say they are likely to seek not much more than the \$122 billion in tax cuts over six years they last proposed, a bow to the lack of public demand for lowered taxes. They also may limit their Medicare savings to whatever Clinton wants to shield themselves from Democratic attacks. They previously proposed saving \$158 billion from Medicare, compared with Clinton's \$124 billion. But there are still substantial barriers to the effort to eliminate deficits for the first time since 1969.

Republicans must overcome bitter memories of an election in which Clinton and congressional Democrats repeatedly accused them of plotting to gut Medicare, Medicaid and other social programs. The experience left some GOP lawmakers cautious about supporting budget-cutting proposals that Democrats might attack later, and explains why they are insisting that Clinton reveal his own plan before talks can begin.

**NICE PLANET. WE'LL TAKE IT!**

**MARS ATTACKS!**

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