

# 'Christening' canceled for Cabbage Patch dolls

By TOM ROSENTHAL  
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — A Roman Catholic archbishop canceled a simulated baptism ceremony featuring Cabbage Patch dolls because such a ritual could lead to "scandalous misinterpretation," church officials said yesterday.

The original ceremony planned at St. Benedict's Church was to be an instructional event for children, who were invited to bring along their dolls, but it "became a much larger thing than anyone intended," said Vince Baglivo, a spokesman for the

Newark Diocese, the sixth-largest in the nation with 1.3 million Roman Catholics.

"As it turned out, people from other towns and parishes in Newark went to the church," Baglivo said.

The ceremony had been planned by St. Benedict's for Jan. 28 in conjunction with its regular Saturday evening Mass. But Archbishop Peter L. Gretyl canceled the event after receiving "many inquiries" about its orthodoxy, Baglivo said.

"The baptism of dolls is totally unauthorized and can lead to scandalous misinterpretation," Gretyl said in the statement. "The particular ceremony in question was

**'It was supposed to be an instructional thing for children.'**

—Rev. Ferdinand B. Miller

canceled. Notice is hereby given that any such events are not to be held in the archdiocese of Newark."

The Rev. Ferdinand B. Miller, pastor of

St. Benedict's, said yesterday the affair was blown out of proportion.

"It was supposed to be an instructional thing for children," Miller said. "It was just for them to reach out to their parents and to ask questions about their own baptism."

Miller said there never were plans to baptize dolls.

"The idea was for them to bring in their favorite doll and go through the ceremony and know that the words were," he said, adding people mistakenly believed only Cabbage Patch dolls were to be used.

"It started with Cabbage Patch and ex-

tended to other dolls for the sake of teaching the children about their own baptism," Baglivo said. Cabbage Patch dolls, which come with different computer-designed faces and "adoption papers," were the nation's hottest toy fad before Christmas.

William Ryan, a spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, which represents the nation's 300 bishops, said using dolls to instruct children about baptism is a common practice.

"It certainly has been heard of and even mentioned in textbooks and teaching training books," Ryan said.

# Mistaken identity:

*Girl dons prowler's guise; stabbed to death by friend*

By The Associated Press

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. — A 14-year-old girl who disguised herself as a prowler lurking outside the house to scare her baby-sitting friend paid for her practical joke with a fatal knife wound to her chest.

Karen Geske, who earlier had made ominous telephone calls to the friend, was stabbed to death by the baby-sitter's boyfriend, a high school honor student.

"The whole thing was shocking to us here because neither was the type you would think to get involved in something like this," said Walter Forsyth, principal of Crystal Lake Central High School.

Police Chief Samuel Johns said, "It started out to be a prank and turned out to be a tragedy."

The young man, whose name has not been released, has been charged

with voluntary manslaughter in the Jan. 28 slaying. He is free on \$25,000 bond pending a preliminary hearing Feb. 15 in McHenry County Circuit Court.

Johns said the prank apparently began when Karen made several anonymous phone calls to her friend, breathing heavily each time. Then she donned men's clothing, drew a beard on her chin, pulled a nylon stocking over her head and went to show the disguise to her 20-year-old sister, Lori.

"My room is in the basement and she came downstairs before she left," Lori Geske said. "She had this get-up on and she was cracking up, and I laughed and laughed."

Karen then left her house and walked across the street to the house where her friend was baby-sitting with her boyfriend. Karen's brother, LaRoy, said he and his sister had

often played similar pranks at the same house when they were younger.

After she rattled the doors and windows of the house, the boyfriend opened the door to investigate.

As Karen jumped out of the bushes — apparently intending to shout, "Boo!" — the young man lunged forward with a double-edged knife and stabbed her once in the chest.

It wasn't until Karen gasped, "Oh, you stabbed me," that the youth realized who she was, Johns said. The girl turned away and collapsed on the front lawn.

Forsyth described Karen as an average student who was well-liked by her fellow students and never caused any trouble at school.

The young man, formerly on the school's wrestling team, has returned to school.



Karen Geske

# Panel defines problems between media, military

By TIM AHERN  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The media is more understanding now of the problems of the military than it was during the decade of the 1970s but relations between the two sides need further improvement, a trio of military public affairs officers told a Pentagon panel yesterday.

"There is a greater sensitivity now, and it was there even before Grenada," said Maj. Gen. Llyle Barker Jr., the Army's chief of public affairs.

His statement was agreed upon by Brig. Gen. Richard F. Abel, the Air Force director of public affairs, and Commodore Jack

Garrow, Navy chief of information.

Comments from the three service officials ended four days of hearings by a Defense Department panel that is trying to come up with a military policy on the media.

The panel was created after the press strongly criticized its ban from Grenada during the first 48 hours of the U.S.-led invasion of that Caribbean nation last October. It was the first time in U.S. history that the press had been banned from accompanying soldiers on a major action.

The group's findings will be sent to the Joint Chiefs of Staff but will not be binding. The panel is expected to issue its recommendations by the end of the month.

# people in the news

## Johnny Carson signs new agreement to host Tonight Show

By JERRY BUCK  
AP Television Writer

BURBANK, Calif. — Johnny Carson, who celebrated his 21st anniversary as host of "The Tonight Show" last October, has signed a new contract with NBC seven months before his old one expires, the network said yesterday.

Details of the new contract were not disclosed, said Gene Walsh, an NBC spokesman. Carson's current contract expires in September.

"I just talked to Johnny and he's very happy with the new contract," said Jim Mahoney, a spokesman for Carson. "He's entered into a new agreement that will run indefinitely and there're no changes from his previous contract."

"Johnny has always said when people stop watching that's the time to step down," Mahoney

said. "He has survived everything they've put up against him and it is still out front."

Asked if the new contract included more money, Mahoney replied, "I didn't discuss salary with Johnny, but I'm sure the network wanted to keep him."

NBC chairman Grant Tinker said in a statement, "The record Johnny Carson has established in broadcasting is nothing less than incredible. For 22 years he has turned back the best efforts of the competition as the 'king of late-night television.' We are delighted Johnny has agreed to continue doing the 'Tonight Show.'"

The contract due to expire in September is a one-year extension of a three-year contract Carson signed in 1980 when Fred Silverman was president of NBC.

For a time it appeared in 1980 that Carson would

leave the show, which brings in an estimated \$90 million in revenues to NBC annually. Negotiations dragged on for a year. But Carson won concessions from NBC, including cutting the show from 90 minutes to an hour, reducing his work week to four days and giving him more vacation time.

It was reported at the time that his current contract raised his previous salary of \$3 million, but there was no confirmation from Carson or the network.

Carson, who took over the helm of "The Tonight Show" from Jack Paar on Oct. 1, 1962, is still the late-night ratings leader. He has survived assaults from Joey Bishop, Dick Cavett, Merv Griffin and others.

The most recent challenger was the syndicated "Thicke of the Night," starring Alan Thicke and produced by Silverman.

## Raquel Welch accepts settlement for bogus nude photos

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Actress Raquel Welch has accepted a large damage settlement and an apology from a man's magazine which published bogus nude photos of her.

Her attorney, Patrick Milmo, told

High Court Judge Sir James Conyn that three photos in the February 1982 issue of Club International were of another woman, and that the magazine was "grossly negligent and degraded."

Milmo said yesterday that editors and publishers of the magazine had apologized for the "gross insult" and

agreed to pay Miss Welch a "large sum" in damages — which weren't specified — plus legal costs.

In exchange, he said, Miss Welch was prepared to drop her libel action. "It is quite true that a mistake was made about the identity of the woman shown in these photographs," said

attorney John Zeiger, representing the magazine.

"My clients wish to convey their unqualified apologies to Miss Welch for this unfortunate affair and for the hurt and embarrassment they have caused her," he said.

## Roger Mudd to become chief NBC political correspondent

By FRED ROTHENBERG  
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Roger Mudd celebrated his 58th birthday yesterday by making peace with NBC. Mudd's new assignment will include preparing frequent political reports for his old "Nightly News," and special reports for other NBC broadcasts. During the national conventions, Mudd will report from the podium, analyzing the activity and interviewing the major players.

Mudd said his duties after the convention will also include two documentaries on the candidates. After the election, Mudd said that he would have new discussions with NBC about doing NBC "White Papers," or documentaries, in 1985.

Mudd called that "a commitment. We agreed to agree on the White Papers."

Mudd's only major exposure on NBC since Brokaw became sole evening news anchor Sept. 5 was as an anchor for a three-hour retrospective on President John F. Kennedy that NBC News did in November.

Mudd said he was off the air for legal reasons. "My position was they had breached my contract. If I had gone on the air doing work not normally

done by anchors, it would have signaled that I had acquiesced to the breach of my contract."

After months of negotiations, Mudd, whose original contract had seven more years to run, said a readjustment had been made that "satisfies both sides." Mudd would not reveal any specific contract modifications.

"My clients wish to convey their unqualified apologies to Miss Welch for this unfortunate affair and for the hurt and embarrassment they have caused her," he said.

"I don't know where that came from, but it did a disservice, not only to me, but to Tom," Mudd said. "I have no idea who put that out. But it was never an issue. It was not true. It never came up once."

"I just want to get back to work," he said. "My assignments are substantial ones, which will allow me to contribute to the dispersing of news and information during this critical year. I'm delighted to get back to what I want to be doing."

The announcement last July, that Mudd was going to be an anchor without an anchor position, was the second time he had been lost in the shuffle. He had been passed over for Dan Rather at CBS when Walter Cronkite retired as anchor of the "CBS Evening News."

The Daily Collegian Friday, Feb. 10, 1984-11

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