



WORLD NEWS

Over 19 Million Pool Toys Recalled

'Dive Sticks' Could Impale Children Who Land on Them

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More than 19 million pool toys are being recalled because they can impale children who land on them, according to a report published.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is expected to ban so-called "dive sticks" within two weeks, USA Today reported. The pool toys

are hard, plastic cylinder-shaped objects that stand upright on the bottom of pools so children can retrieve them.

CPSC said that at least six children have been rectally or vaginally impaled by the toys, which have been sold for about 20 years at various retail stores. The commission recommends that parents throw the toys away.

Other CPSC recalls being an-

nounced today:

Snuggly Front & Back Packs with vertical "T" straps. At least 13 children have slipped through the leg openings of the carrier, including one who suffered a fractured skull.

Star Wars Lightsabers. CPSC received 38 reports about such toys with batteries that overheated. Three users were burned.

Victims' Relatives Defend Williams

By DAVID PACE

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ATLANTA (AP) - Emanuel Jones remembers his grandmother sending him and his brother Clifford to the grocery store that August day 20 years ago, the day Clifford was strangled and his body dumped behind a Laundromat.

"She told us don't split up, walk together, hold hands," Jones said, recalling the fear that gripped Atlanta during 1979-81 when police investigated the slayings of 29 young blacks, including Clifford.

At the grocery store, Jones let Clifford stay out front to hustle money carrying groceries for customers, while he went inside to buy the breakfast food their grandmother wanted. He never saw his brother alive again.

"I blamed it all on myself for years because I let him go," said Jones, now 33. "I let him do that."

Partly to assuage his guilt, Jones recently returned to Atlanta from Chattanooga, Tenn., to launch his own investigation. For weeks, he pored through police files and interviewed witnesses.

"I found out for one that Wayne Williams didn't kill my brother," he said. "There were others involved in the murder."

But the investigation of Clifford's slaying officially was closed in 1982, after Williams was convicted of murder in two of the 29 deaths. Authorities blamed Williams for 22 of the other slayings, including Clifford's, on the basis of fiber evidence taken from the victims' bodies and matched to sources in Williams' home and cars.

Since then, some of the victims' families have become defenders of the man blamed for killing their children, unsuccessfully asking the Justice Department and the city to reopen the case.

"They didn't want nothing else to do with it after he was convicted," said Willie Mae Mathis, mother of 11-year-old Jefferey Mathis, one of the slayings not officially blamed on Williams. "They just pushed it all under the rug."

Now, some victims' mothers are working with Williams' lawyers, trying to enlist the aid of Atlanta's black clergy to persuade the new Fulton County new district attorney, Paul Howard, to launch a new investigation.

In addition, an appeal filed by Williams is pending before the Georgia Supreme Court.

Serial Killer Suspect Added to FBI's Most Wanted

Resendez-Ramirez Suspected in Eight Slayings

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MURPHYSBORO, Ill. - Authorities today charged a railroad-riding drifter with the slayings of a father and daughter last week in Gorham, bringing to eight the number of slayings linked to the suspected serial killer.

Authorities found fingerprint evidence directly tying Rafael Resendez-Ramirez to the Illinois killings, Jackson County States Attorney Mike Wepseic said. Resendez-Ramirez is wanted for questioning in five killings in Texas and one in Kentucky since August 1997.

An FBI task force of local, state and federal officers has been hunting for Resendez-Ramirez since authorities began connecting the killings earlier this month. All eight slayings took place on or near railroad tracks.

The bodies of George Morber, 80, and his 52-year-old daughter, Carolyn Frederick, were found Tuesday in his home in the southern Illinois town of Gorham. The house is only 100 yards from railroad tracks.

Resendez-Ramirez was charged in Illinois with first-degree murder and home invasion, authorities said at a news conference.

Resendez-Ramirez is accused of shooting Morber in the head with a shotgun and beating Frederick in the head with the shotgun. State and federal authorities declined to reveal any other details about the crime scene.

Morber's truck was recovered Wednesday from a school parking lot in Cairo, about 60 miles south of Gorham. Authorities said today that fingerprints

found on it matched the suspect's.

Jackson County Sheriff Bill Kilquist said authorities believe Resendez-Ramirez has fled the area.

In Houston today, FBI spokesman Rolando Moss said Resendez-Ramirez also has been charged with federal unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for a burglary in Texas.

Resendez-Ramirez also has been added to the bureau's most wanted list, and a \$75,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction was increased to \$125,000.

"The fact he's on the list means there's a lot more resources out there," FBI special agent Don Clark said.

Asked to provide a motive for the killing spree, Clark replied, "I wish I could tell you."

Accused SLA Fugitive Denied Bail

By JOHN NEMO

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MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Bail was denied for the woman captured this week who authorities say is fugitive Symbionese Liberation Army member Kathleen Ann Soliah.

District Judge Kathleen Gearin refused to set bail on Friday, partly because one of the charges against Ms. Soliah carries a penalty of life in prison. Ms. Soliah is accused of planting two pipe bombs under police cars in 1975; the bombs did not explode.

Ms. Soliah, 52, assumed a new life in St. Paul under the alias Sara Jane Olson, authorities said. The suspect has refused to waive extradition to face the California bomb charges. Her next hearing was scheduled for July 15.

Her lawyer, Howard Bass, did not return phone calls seeking comment. He has not acknowledged whether Mrs. Olson and Ms. Soliah are the same person, but the FBI says fingerprint analysis shows a match.

The 52-year-old woman captured Wednesday has been quietly living as a doctor's wife, sometime actress and mother of three children.

Meanwhile, Gov. Jesse Ventura said he would sign extradition papers for Ms. Soliah if they are presented to him.

In 1974, the anti-government SLA kidnapped newspaper heiress Patty Hearst. The case took a bizarre twist when Ms. Hearst sent word that she had joined the group.

When Ms. Hearst was arrested in San Francisco in October 1975, she was living with Ms. Soliah and her brother. Ms. Hearst was convicted of an SLA bank robbery and sent to prison, serving for two years before President Carter commuted her sentence.

KKK Leader Convicted in Virginia

By DAVID REED

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HILLSVILLE, Va. - An all-white jury convicted a Ku Klux Klan leader of cross-burning Wednesday, rejecting claims by his black ACLU lawyer that he was legally exercising his right to free speech.

The jury took 25 minutes to convict Barry Black of Johnstown, Pa., of violating a Virginia law against burning a cross to intimidate others.

Black, 51, could get up to five years in prison.

Prosecutors said Black, an imperial wizard with the International

rally in which 18 robed and hooded Klansmen held torches as they stood around a burning cross. The August gathering was on private property with the owner's consent.

The Klan leader's lawyer, David Baugh of the American Civil Liberties Union, argued: "The cross was burned as a part of their ceremony, not because they want to intimidate anyone. Mr. Black has the right to express, by sign or gesture, any feelings he has."

Baugh told the jury he knows the Klan hates blacks, but "in America we have the right to hate."

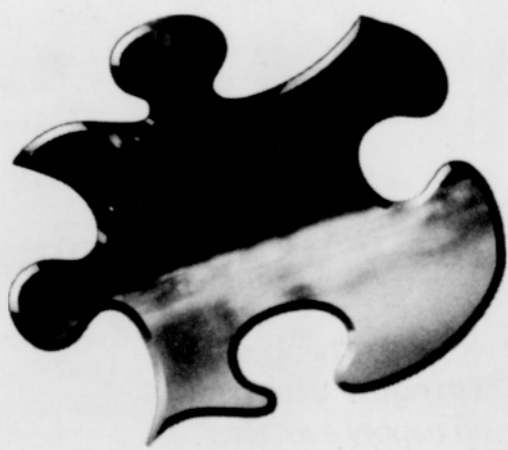
Prosecutor Greg Goad said Black has every right to freedom of speech.

"What is different here is that nobody has the right to intimidate others," Goad said.

He said Black indicated his intent to intimidate to a deputy on the way to jail. "Mr. Black said, 'When is the white man going to stand up to the blacks' and Mexicans in this neighborhood?'" the prosecutor said.

Less than 1 percent of the 26,000 residents of Carroll County in the mountains of southwestern Virginia are black.

Before the case went to trial, Baugh said he found the KKK's views offensive but took the Klan leader on as a client because "we cannot afford any erosion of the First Amendment."



Helping Our Environment

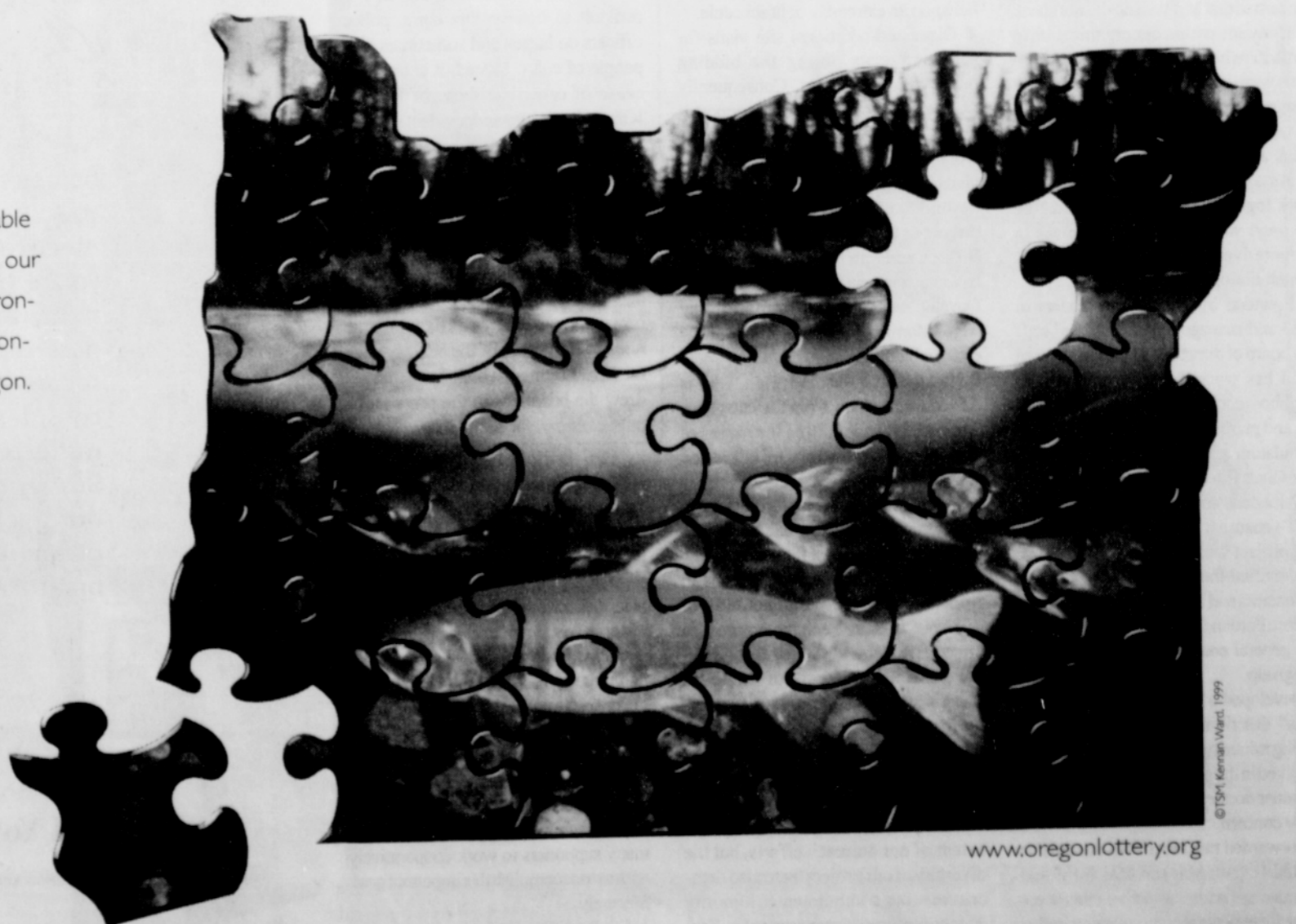
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