

**WEATHER**

Gusty showers.  
HIGH 62  
Rainy tonight.  
LOW 47  
FORECAST, B-8

**INSIDE TODAY**

**SPORTS**



**P-BRUINS TOP FALCONS**

Providence goaltender Andrew Raycroft makes 30 saves and nearly holds Springfield scoreless in the Bruins' home opener. Above, Matt Kerr, left, celebrates his first-period goal — the team's second in a 2-1 victory — with Andy Hilbert. **C-1**

**PC'S VERSATILE SLAM-DUNK KING**

Providence College's above-the-rim master, Rob Sanders, wasn't always a top-flight aerialist. He's picked up serious altitude only in the last couple of years — just in time to be pressed into defensive service, where the Friars need him most. **C-1**

**LIFEBEAT**



**DECIPHERING MADONNA**

The cryptic video for her song in the upcoming James Bond movie *Die Another Day* is — can you believe it? — controversial. **D-1**

**BUSINESS**

**IT'S NOT EASY BEING KMART**

The troubled retailer has pinned its hopes for survival to a prototype store in White Lake Township, Mich., where wider aisles, lower shelves, local inventory control and a lime-green color scheme were unveiled Thursday. **B-1**

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## Collins lawyer: Harwood's story 'fiction'

Lawyer Stephen J. Dennis strongly disputes House Speaker John B. Harwood's description of events leading to the settlement of Wendy Collins's workers' compensation case.

BY KATHERINE GREGG and TRACY BRETON  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — A lawyer for Wendy L. Collins yesterday accused House Speaker John B. Harwood of "concocting" a false version of the events that resulted in a settlement of the former legislative researcher's "stress at work/sexual-harassment" case.

"It's pure fiction," lawyer Stephen J. Dennis said yesterday of some of

the statements Harwood has made during a recent run of live radio interviews, and at the public forum he held in his home city of Pawtucket on Thursday night.



DENNIS

Dennis took issue, in particular, with this statement by Harwood, during the Pawtucket City Hall forum, about Collins's sexual-harassment allegations: "They dismissed the allegations because they knew they had a gaffe case."

"He said it was a 'gaffe settlement,'" Dennis continued. "It wasn't legitimate. That's just totally false."

"Wendy stands by the allegations she has made that it was oral sex for retention of work, and the retaliation, as a result, when she refused. She stood by it then. She stands by it now," Dennis said.

"If the settlement had not gone through," Dennis said, the sexual-harassment claims would have gone to trial and "Wendy Collins would have gotten on the stand and stated

that he [Harwood] forced her to have oral sex for the retention of her job, and when she refused, people that he directed and controlled retaliated against her."

Dennis also disputed Harwood's contention that Collins backed off her sexual-harassment claim because Harwood hired a prominent criminal-defense lawyer, John Lynch, to "fight this case from A to Z."

During a live interview with WHJJ-radio talk-show host Arlene

SEE HARWOOD, A-5

## High cost of health arises in top race

Republican gubernatorial candidate Donald Carcieri says he would look for savings in Rite Care, while Democrat Myrth York would consolidate drug purchasing.

BY FELICE FREYER  
JOURNAL MEDICAL WRITER

If you're worried about health care, how do you know which candidate for governor will best protect your interests?



CARCIERI



YORK

The most obvious difference between Republican Donald Carcieri and Democrat Myrth York is that York has made specific proposals concerning health care, while Carcieri's campaign has focused on broader economic issues.

But that doesn't necessarily answer the question, and an answer may be hard to come by. Both candidates say they're hamstrung by the looming fiscal crisis in state government, even as they acknowledge the shortcomings of the health-care system.

Carcieri says he would fashion a four-year plan that makes gradual improvements as the budget allows. "The important thing to me is a plan and a strategy," he said. "Do what you can afford and keep it moving."

SEE CAMPAIGN, A-6

## Sniper 'witness' arrested in Virginia

The police also impound a white box truck that contained a shell casing at a car-rental agency near Dulles International Airport.

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE and MARIA GLOD  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Fairfax County, Va., authorities yesterday arrested the man they said gave them a fabricated account of the latest sniper slaying in the parking lot of a Home Depot store, calling his actions outrageous and saying he had caused wasted effort in the frustrating 16-day hunt for the killer.

The police charged Matthew M. Dowdy, 37, of Falls Church, with making a false statement to a law-enforcement officer in the course of an investigation.

Dowdy's arrest came as the police confiscated a white box truck after a cleaning crew at a car-rental agency near Dulles International Airport found a shell casing inside.

SEE SNIPER, A-6

## Balancing the protection of children against the legal rights of priests



AP PHOTO / LUCIANO DEL CASTILLO

ON THE MOVE: Three priests cross St. Peter's Square in Rome yesterday. The Vatican rejected the U.S. Catholic Church's new sexual-abuse policy yesterday, arguing that the zero-tolerance guidelines must be revised because elements conflict with church law.

## Vatican rejects U.S. plan Zero tolerance 'difficult to reconcile' with church law

BY FRANK BRUNI  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME — The Vatican yesterday rejected an aggressive new policy by American bishops to combat child sexual abuse by priests, saying that bishops needed to rewrite portions of it to make the policy conform with the laws of the Roman Catholic Church.

The decision, conveyed in a letter to the head of the American bishops conference, seemed to represent a significant setback to Roman Catholic leaders in the United States as they tried to extract the church from a profound crisis and restore American Catholics' trust in the institution.

The letter took pains to applaud the bishops' efforts and to emphasize concern among

SEE VATICAN, A-7

REACTION: Brian Condon, of North Providence, an alleged victim who has sued the church, says the church is focusing on canon law at victims' expense. **Story, A-7**



JOURNAL PHOTO / RUBEN W. PEREZ

## TAKING IT OFF FOR CHARITY

BY KAREN LEE ZINER  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Just beyond the grasp of dozens and dozens of intoxicated, hysterical women strutted tantalizing expanses of young rippled flesh.

"That's my nephew!" a woman screamed as "Mr. January" — Stephen Ptaszek, Engine Company 5 — sashayed out on the catwalk.

He slipped off his khaki firefighter jacket. Shrugged out of his suspender straps. Slid his pants over his hips.

"It's getting hot in here... I'm gonna take my clothezzzz off..."

The raucous introduction of "The Men of the Providence Fire Department, 2003 Calendar for Charity" drew a crowd last night that went 30 deep or more at Prov restaurant on

SEE FIREMEN, A-4



HOT STUFF: Firefighter Carl Betz, of Ladder 7 in Providence, danced for the women attending last night's debut of the The Men of the Providence Fire Department 2003 Calendar for Charity.

JOURNAL PHOTO / RUBEN W. PEREZ

## Judge's ruling called victory for immigrants

A Rhode Island judge joins others around the country in rejecting a federal law that requires detention of immigrants awaiting deportation hearings.

BY KAREN LEE ZINER  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — In a decision hailed by the ACLU and other civil-rights groups as a key victory "for basic principles of due process and the rights of immigrants," a federal magistrate judge in Rhode Island has struck down a federal law that mandates detention of immigrants facing possible deportation.

The ruling by U.S. District Magistrate Judge Jacob Hagopian joins a growing number of court decisions that declare the law unconstitutional, said Steven Brown, executive director of the Rhode Island

SEE RULING, A-5