

BOSTON GARDEN FINALE



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / STAN GROSSFELD

The Boston Garden, a city fixture for 70 years, continued to fall to wrecking crews yesterday. Demolition will set a stage for removal of Green Line tracks over Causeway Street. The Garden's replacement, the FleetCenter, opened in 1995.

Campaign finance gets day in House

Gingrich to allow floor vote on bill

By Michael Kranish
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON – House Speaker Newt Gingrich reversed himself yesterday and said he would allow a vote on campaign finance legislation, acknowledging that Representative Martin T. Meehan and his allies were about to collect enough signatures to force a vote.

Gingrich said in a statement that he would allow a vote next month on any campaign finance bill in the interest of being "open, flexible and bipartisan." Republican leaders later said that they would push an alternative bill that would ban the use of labor union money, a provision opposed by Democrats.

"This is clearly Gingrich conceding defeat," said Meehan, a Lowell Democrat. Representative Christopher Shays, the Connecticut Republican co-sponsor who also pushed

Gingrich to allow a vote, called it "a great day for democracy and for those fighting for reform."

Gingrich's decision, however, will not necessarily lead to passage of Meehan's bill, which would ban the use of unregulated "soft money" donations to political parties. Gingrich said he will allow any campaign bill to be considered, meaning Meehan could lose supporters who may back other proposals. Meehan said he is concerned that Gingrich might try another parliamentary maneuver, as he did last month, to block Meehan's bill.

But Gingrich's move was a symbolic victory for those wanting to change how elections are financed. The immediate impact is the House will spend considerable time in May debating the campaign finance system, the kind of public discussion Gingrich was trying to avoid.

FINANCE, Page A16

State Police pay to settle trooper's rape claim

By David Armstrong
GLOBE STAFF

The State Police secretly made a \$290,000 payment last month to a female trooper who said she was raped on the job by a male trooper, according to sources familiar with the arrangement.

Although State Police commanders and the female trooper agreed to

keep the cash payment confidential, word of the deal leaked to other State Police personnel not involved with the negotiations.

The sources said the settlement angered some of those troopers because the Suffolk County district attorney's office decided not to file charges after investigating the allegations. The male trooper accused in the case, sources said, claimed the

two engaged in consensual sex.

The troopers were on duty at the State House and in uniform when the alleged rape occurred. Sources said the female trooper was reluctant to press for criminal charges and told the district attorney she didn't want to pursue the matter.

Sources said the woman's attorney served the State Police with a lawsuit late last year, and warned

the suit would be filed in 90 days if a settlement was not reached. The State Police agreed to the \$290,000 payment just before that deadline expired, the sources said.

The female trooper also accused a second male trooper of sexual assault, and both male troopers face possible disciplinary action when a court martial convenes next month.

STATE POLICE, Page B14

NOW says it won't join appeal in Jones case

By Mary Leonard
GLOBE STAFF

With its membership dead set against it and its leadership convinced that it would benefit only conservative enemies, the National Organization for Women declared yesterday that it will not get involved in Paula Jones's appeal of a sexual-harassment suit against President Clinton.

On Monday, NOW President Patricia Ireland suggested that the feminist organization might weigh in at the appeals court with a legal brief supporting a woman's right to harassment-free workplace. But yes-

terday, she said the "overwhelming consensus" of members' views was to stay away from the politically charged Jones case.

"We are also disinclined to work with the disreputable right-wing organizations and individuals advancing" Jones's "cause, who themselves have a longstanding political interest in undermining our movement to strengthen women's rights and weakening laws that protect those rights," Ireland said at a Washington news conference.

NOW's swift retreat from what appeared to be its first real offer of assistance to Jones gave new ammunition to the case.

SUIT, Page A23

In Canada, horror greets bid to blast watery gravesite

By Colin Nickerson
GLOBE STAFF

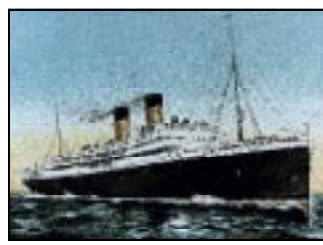


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OTTAWA CITIZEN
A postcard from 1914 depicting the British liner.

Lawrence River. In the decades since, their bodies have lain largely undisturbed, entombed in the wreckage of the 570-foot-long ship.

Now, to the horror of marine archaeologists, maritime historians, and religious groups, a Quebec salvage entrepreneur plans to blow open the hull with dynamite in a bid to recover roughly \$1 million worth of nickel ingots from its holds. The explosive charges would probably destroy the nearly intact vessel and would surely scatter hundreds of skeletons to the cold currents.

"This is a gravesite, a sacred place," said Major Paul Murray, head of the Salvation Army's Heritage Center in Toronto. "But incredibly there seems to be nothing to prevent this desecration."

Among those lost in the maritime tragedy were 150 North American leaders of the Salvation Army, bound to England for a religious conference, along with the trumpeters, trombonists, and tuba players of the evangelical group's famous Canadian brass band.

According to Canadian newspaper reports, a Quebec businessman, Jacques Saint-Onge, has begun re-

SHIP, Page A26



AP PHOTO

A LIFT ON EARTH DAY – President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore helped volunteers build a stone wall along the Appalachian Trail yesterday. A13.

'97 warmest in study of last 600 years

By David L. Chandler
GLOBE STAFF

Last year was the warmest the world has experienced, going back at least to the century before Christopher Columbus sailed, scientists reported yesterday. The new findings provide the clearest and most dramatic evidence that the world is experiencing global warming caused by human activity.

By using a combination of written records and information gleaned from tree rings, ice cores and coral reefs, researchers at the Univer-

sity of Massachusetts have been able to build a record of the world's climate that extends back 600 years. The record revealed that the warmest years in that span were 1997, 1995, and 1990.

Previous records had shown that these recent years were the warmest since consistent records of temperature have been kept. But those records go back only about 100 years – a span many scientists have considered too short to be a reliable indicator of long-term trends.

Michael Mann and Raymond Bradley, climate scientists at UMass-Amherst, and Malcolm WARMING, Page A4

It's official: Harshbarger enters the race for governor

By Adrian Walker
GLOBE STAFF

After nearly \$2 million in fundraising, close to a dozen position papers spelling out his views on the issues, and well over a year on the campaign trail, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger formally announced yesterday he is a candidate for governor.

"I know this may not come as a complete surprise," Harshbarger said. "I've certainly dropped some hints here and there. But after the bickering and lack of ideas we saw in Worcester [at the state Republican convention] this weekend, I knew I had to launch the challenge – formally, officially, and right out loud."

Harshbarger, who has been the Democratic front-runner for months, said his candidacy would focus on child care, health care, and improving the lives of working families. He said Acting Governor Paul Cellucci



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / JOHN TLUMACKI

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger makes his announcement.

has done little but count on good economic times and complacent voters to pull him through.

"The acting governor is squandering the best opportunity in our lifetime to drive this state to a whole new level of long-term hope and opportunity for every man, woman, HARSHBARGER, Page B12

Metro/Region B

Fagan freed on bail
The alleged kidnapper repeats that he acted for his children's benefit, and his ex-wife leaves Boston without contact with the daughters.

Living/Arts D

Unsentimental sitcom
David Spade's "Just Shoot Me" appears to have a shot at becoming The Show Chosen To Replace "Seinfeld."

Business E

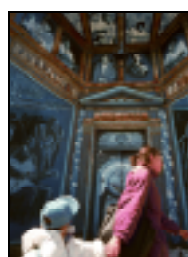
Missing bank funds
BankBoston Corp. sues an Argentine businessman in an attempt to recover more than \$60 million.

At Home F

Team spirit
Design power and architectural flair reinvest a financier's house in Newton with a modern edge.

Calendar

Dudley Square delights
The shops, architecture, history, and people make for a singular scene.



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CLASSIFIED

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