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BACK TO WORK

The Stars reported to training camp Tuesday, beginning the process of unifying with management after a contentious year.

SPORTSDAY, 1C



Let's talk art

Four modern masters have a conversation through their art at the DMA.

ARTS DAY, 14E

At least 73 die in Iraq blast

Suicide bomber drove car into crowd of day laborers, police say

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — At least 73 people were killed and 162 wounded early today when a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle near a group of construction workers in north Baghdad, police said.

The blast occurred at 6:30 a.m. near a crowd of day laborers who had assembled before going to work on nearby construction sites, said police Maj. Musa Abdel Kerim. He said the suicide driver drove his car into the gathering before detonating the explosive charge.

The number of fatalities was expected to rise because some of the wounded were unlikely to survive, Lt. Col. Moayad Zubair said.

See AT LEAST Page 12A

Storms late



High: 95 Low: 75
5-day outlook, 2B

BUSINESS

Bankruptcy for Delta, Northwest?

Sources said Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines will seek bankruptcy protection as soon as today. 1D

TEXAS

DeLay associates face new charges

Two political associates of U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay were indicted on additional felony charges of illegally using corporate money to elect Republicans in 2002. 6A

NATION

Kids found in cages OK, officials say

The 11 children removed from an Ohio house where some of them slept in cages appear to have been well-fed, officials said. 2A

Also: Ophelia strengthened to a hurricane and wobbled closer to the Carolinas. 9A

INDEX

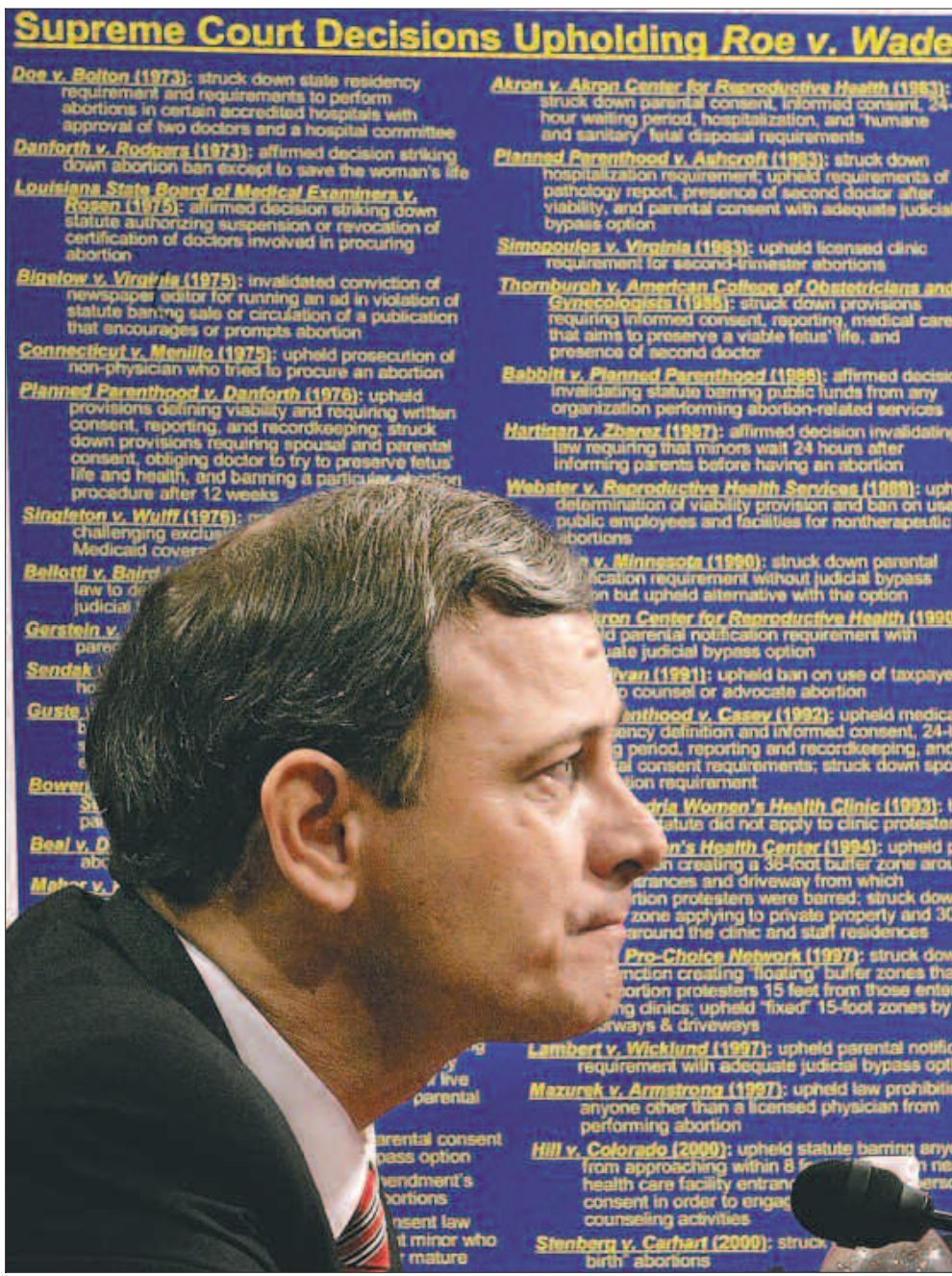
SECTION A	
Lottery	2
People	3
Texas	4-7
Nation	9-11
World	12-15
Overnight	17
Editorials and Viewpoints	22-23
SECTION B — Metro	
Weather	2
SECTION C — SportsDay	
TV/Radio	2
Baseball	4-6
SECTION D — Business	
Market Day	4-8
SECTION E — Texas Living	
Comics and Puzzles	10-12
Television	12
Bridge	13
Dear Abby	13
Variety columnists	13
Arts Day	14
SECTION F — Classified	

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Roberts grilled on abortion, civil rights



Above: Seated in front of a board listing Supreme Court decisions supporting the Roe vs. Wade ruling, chief justice nominee John Roberts responded to questions from Senate Judiciary Committee members. Right: Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., took issue with what he thought were evasive answers by Judge Roberts.



WIN McNAMEE/Getty Images

Democrats press, but judge avoids specifics

GOP senators defend chief justice nominee against 'litmus tests'

By DAVID JACKSON and ALLEN PUSEY
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — In his first day of intensive questioning, Supreme Court nominee John Roberts said little Tuesday about how he might handle abortion and civil rights cases, even as Senate Demo-

crats worked to pin down the chief justice candidate.

He told the Senate Judiciary Committee, however, that he believes in a constitutional right to privacy, equal rights and opportunities for women and a passive role for the nation's courts.

"I should stay away from discussions of particular issues that are likely to come before the court again," Judge Roberts said during a daylong hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, one that

included often-heated exchanges with some Democrats.

At one point, Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., told the nominee: "Go ahead and continue not to answer."

Committee Republicans defended Judge Roberts against what Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, called "litmus tests."

"You are not campaigning for elective office," Mr. Hatch said.

See ROBERTS Page 2A

Words getting in the way of U.N. defining 'terrorism'

Political connotations make it hard for all to agree on language

By TOD ROBBERTSON
Europe Bureau

LONDON — You can get tough on it, declare war on it, root it out at its source or pursue it to the farthest corners of the planet. But one of the most difficult aspects of ter-

rorism, it turns out, is simply defining it.

As the world observes the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, leaders are opening a three-day summit at the U.N. today on how to reform the 60-year-old institution, and one of their most urgent tasks will be confronting global terrorism. But in order to

fight it, everyone needs to agree on what terrorism is, diplomats and other analysts said.

"The United Nations have been working on this issue of trying to find a definition for terrorism since the early '80s," said Maged Abdel Aziz, Egypt's permanent representative to the U.N. "It failed," he added, because of the heavy political connotations attached to many of the words that some governments tried to insert into the text.

A U.N. anti-terrorism committee this week recommended defining terrorism as any act intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or noncombatants and intimidate a population or coerce a government or international organization.

The wording has been controversial because some definitions are perceived by Arab or Muslim nations as biased toward Western or Israeli viewpoints. Others are

deemed by Washington and other Western powers as too broad or watered-down to have any real meaning.

"There is some general agreement in the different definitions usually proposed," said John Collins, a professor at St. Lawrence University in New York and co-editor of *Collateral Language*, which examines the rhetoric of war.

See U.N. Page 10A

Bush takes blame for response

President set to address nation on Katrina

By G. ROBERT HILLMAN
Washington Bureau

NEW YORK — President Bush accepted blame for the sluggish federal response to Hurricane Katrina on Tuesday — 15 days after the monstrous storm struck the Gulf Coast, killing hundreds.

"Katrina exposed serious problems in our response capability in our response capability, and to the extent that the federal government didn't fully do its job right, I take responsibility," Mr. Bush said in a rare admission of failure during his nearly five years as president.

He accepted what he parsed as his share of the blame during a White House news conference called to confront another weight of his presidency — the war in Iraq.

See BUSH Page 17A

Nursing home owners charged in drownings of 34 patients

By DIANE JENNINGS
Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE, La. — The state's chief prosecutor filed charges against the owners of a nursing home Tuesday, accusing them of ignoring pleas to evacuate before Hurricane Katrina and allowing 34 patients to drown.

The owners of St. Rita's Nursing Home in St. Bernard Parish "were asked if they wanted to move" the patients, Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti said.

"They did not," Mr. Foti said. "They were warned repeatedly that this storm was coming. In effect, their inaction resulted in the deaths of these patients."

Mabel B. Mangano, owner and administrator of the nursing home, and her husband, co-owner Salvador A. Mangano, are

See CHARGES Page 18A

'We're not used to just listening to people die'

New Orleans 911 tapes reveal anguish of helpless operators, despair and calm of the dying

By KAREN BROOKS and PETE SLOVER
Staff Writers

NEW ORLEANS — As hurricane floodwaters gushed into New Orleans, the 911 calls pouring in to police were desperate and, in a heartbreakingly Southern way, unflinchingly polite.

One woman thanked the operator for her time. Another apologized for calling so much.

"I'm stuck in the attic, and me and my little sister are here, and my mom, and we've got water in our whole house," said a woman who was trapped with eight others in the low-income Ninth Ward, one of the hardest-hit areas of the city. "We don't have nothing to get out on the roof."

"OK, ma'am, we're getting somebody out there ... OK?" replied the woman who identified herself as "Operator 1-6."

"OK, thank you," the woman replied.

"You're welcome," Operator 1-6 said in a comforting voice.

The first hurricane-related 911 tapes released by New Orleans reflected the horror of Katrina, not so much in the panicked voices of the dying as in the calm and utter helplessness of victims with no escape.

See NEW Page 20A



INSIDE

Months from now, medical experts say, evacuees may be haunted by post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and other emotional struggles. 19A

How you can help. 18A

The local American Red Cross will move evacuees out of the Dallas Convention Center starting today. 9B

Stock prices of companies that make cement, steel and roofing have spiked in the days since the hurricane. 1D

