



AT PLAY

# CELEBRITY SAFARI

Shhhhh. We're tracking famous people in Chicago.



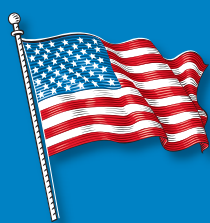
DINING INSIDE AT PLAY

## 4-star Avenues

Phil Vettel says you simply must try the Peninsula's Pop Rocks foie gras.

BUSINESS

Why aren't they paying you more?



# Chicago Tribune

FINAL

50¢ City & Suburbs; 75¢ Elsewhere

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2005

CHICAGO

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Getty Images photo by Mark Wilson

John Roberts Jr. leaves the White House on Wednesday. A fight looms over access to his memos in previous administrations.

# Nomination vexes liberals, women

### Democrats want internal memos on hot-button issues

By Jan Crawford Greenburg  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Confronted with a Supreme Court nominee they believe to be deeply conservative—but with little evidence to prove it—Senate Democrats have begun laying the groundwork for a battle with the Bush administration over access to documents and memos that John Roberts Jr. wrote while working in two Republican administrations.

Roberts' professional career as an appellate lawyer and his two-year tenure as a federal judge give Democrats little ammunition for a fight against him. The Senate unanimously confirmed Roberts to a post on the D.C.-based federal appeals court two years ago, and he has yet to confront a hot-button issue on the bench.

While acknowledging his reputation as a first-rate legal thinker, some Democratic senators have indicated they will seek some of the confidential internal documents and memorandums Roberts wrote as a government lawyer, working for Presidents Ronald Reagan and

PLEASE SEE ROBERTS, PAGE 15

### Loss of 2nd female voice is seen as cause for concern

By Mike Dorning and Andrew Martin  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Bush's nomination of Judge John Roberts Jr. to the Supreme Court left America's first female justice among the American women who felt at least slightly let down.

"I am disappointed, in a sense, to see the percentage of women on our court drop by 50 percent," Sandra Day O'Connor

told The Associated Press in Spokane, even as she praised the president's nominee for her replacement as "first-rate."

Many American women looked to O'Connor as an inspiration, a rancher's daughter who because of her sex could not get a law firm to hire her when she first became an attorney but who both raised a family and rose to the pinnacle of the legal profession.

And in an institution where nine justices deliberate behind closed doors on the most momentous issues of the day, something is lost when there is only one female voice in the room, said former Supreme Court law

PLEASE SEE WOMEN, PAGE 16

IT RAINED. BUT THEN IT STOPPED.



Tribune photo by Milbert O. Brown

# Rain, rain come again

For 15 minutes Wednesday afternoon, people hid under awnings and in doorways, and you could tell locals from tourists by how widely they were smiling.

Midwestern farmers needed the rain for fields locked in drought. Urbanites wanted it scarcely less, to break the muggy monotony that piggybacked humid heat.

On Michigan Avenue (above), a group of women fashioned hats from plastic shopping

bags. Without cover, others scurried pointlessly through raindrops. Many just stood there, looking up.

It ended as it had started, with a gust of wind. But for a few hours Wednesday afternoon, the mercury fell and the heat was almost bearable in Chicago.

For more on the day's weather, please turn to the Metro section. For Tom Skilling's forecast, see Metro back page.

# Mother held in 2 sons' killings

### Young Indiana boys were beaten to death

By Kelly Kennedy and Erika Slife  
Tribune staff reporters

Every day, as Sherry Vidal walked out to check her mail at her home in Dyer, Ind., she shouted at her neighbor across the street, "Is this a good day or a bad day?"

Still, she could not believe it when she went outside at 3 a.m. Wednesday for her job at the post office and found a dozen police cars lining her street.

"I went across the street and said: 'Please, let me take the kids. I know them. I can help,'" Vidal said, explaining she thought something had happened between the parents of two boys, ages 2 and 9. "But they told me I had to leave the crime scene."

Her neighbor had been arrested in connection with the deaths of her two sons. Someone had killed them by hitting them in the heads with a blunt object, Lake County Coroner David Pastrick said.

The 30-year-old mother is the only suspect, Dyer Police Chief Richard Quinn said.

The mother called several friends and family members, then dialed 911 about 10 p.m. Tuesday, Quinn said. When police arrived at her home in the 1000 block of Cambridge Lane,

PLEASE SEE DYER, BACK PAGE

# Silent street, broken hearts

### Bereft Iraqi district marks week since bombing killed kids

By Liz Sly  
Tribune foreign correspondent

BAGHDAD—The dusty little Baghdad street that lost 28 of its children to a suicide bomber a week ago did not need to observe the three-minute silence in memory of the victims called by the government for noon

Wednesday.

This is a street condemned to a lifetime of memories, a seeming eternity of silence, by the man who drove his explosives-packed sport-utility vehicle into a crowd of local children gathered around an American Humvee.

No children play on the street now because their parents won't allow them out. The emptiness on a side street that would normally be full of children kicking balls or riding bicycles is chilling. Every house lost at least one child. Some lost three,

residents say.

But Mohammed Hashim, 11, who survived by an accident of timing and luck, says he does not mind being kept indoors.

"All my playmates are dead," he explained.

"There was Ahmed and Mohammed, Yusuf, Nazreen and another Ahmed, another Mohammed," he said, ticking off names on his fingers until he ran out of fingers and his voice trailed away. "They were my classmates. I cried when I saw

PLEASE SEE IRAQ, BACK PAGE



Getty/AFP photo by Ali Al-Saadi

A woman who lost two children in last week's bombing in Baghdad breaks down during Wednesday's moment of silence.

## INSIDE

NATION

### So long, Scotty

'Star Trek' actor James Doohan dies at 85.

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