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## Supreme Court to return to abortion issue

Procedure used in late term debated

By Mark Sherman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Americans will be chewing over election results Wednesday morning when the nine Supreme Court justices file into their courtroom for two of the biggest cases of the young term.

Voters in some states will be deciding whether to impose restrictions on abortions; one proposal would outlaw almost all abortions in South Dakota.

In the marble courthouse across the Capitol, this most politically charged of issues also will be under consideration.

The court will be discussing whether to uphold the first nationwide restrictions on an abortion procedure since the justices' landmark ruling in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 that

established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

Almost everything about a procedure opponents call partial-birth abortion is disputed, including how many take place each year and even its name.

Abortion rights advocates call the term an oxymoron that incongruously links abortion and birth as part of a political strategy to chip away at the *Roe* ruling.

"It's intended to obfuscate and in

that, it's been successful," said Dr. David Grimes, the former chief of the abortion surveillance division at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Today, Grimes is affiliated with Planned Parenthood of America.

Abortion opponents argue the name aptly describes "a rarely used and gruesome late-term abortion procedure that resembles infanticide," as the Bush administration said in its

SEE **Abortion, A14**

### 2006 VOTE

## State GOP, Democrats confident of gains

Two parties carrying modest expectations

By John Marelus  
STAFF WRITER

Democrats are savoring the prospect of a nationwide electoral romp Tuesday, but in California the picture is much murkier as multiple political crosscurrents swirl toward Election Day.

If pre-election polls are any indication, both major parties will be able to hail 2006 as a landslide year in California.

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger leads his Democratic opponent, state Treasurer Phil Angelides, by nearly 20 percentage points in the most recent surveys. Democratic U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein has an even larger lead over Republican Dick Montjoy, a former Republican state legislator from Arcadia whose campaign has barely been visible.

Schwarzenegger might not mind if Democrats stay home when it comes to his re-election. But he needs them to turn out in force to pass his package of public works bonds — Propositions 1B through 1E — for transportation, housing, schools and levees.

Democrats are confident of seizing control of the House of Representatives, possibly the U.S. Senate and

SEE **Election, A11**

### U-T special report

## Sunroad told to halt work on building near city's Montgomery Field



Some pilots say Sunroad Enterprises' 12-story office tower under construction, seen in the lower left corner of this aerial photo, presents a hazard during bad-weather landings at Kearny Mesa's Montgomery Field, which is visible at the top of the photo. Howard Lipin / Union-Tribune

## Is office tower's height a hazard?

By David Hasemyer  
STAFF WRITER

A 12-story office tower under construction near San Diego's Montgomery Field is causing jitters among pilots and alarm in city, state and federal agencies because it extends into a landing path that private planes use in bad weather.

For six months, the Federal Aviation Administration has been warning that the building is a hazard that will have a "substantial adverse effect on the safe (operation)" of the city-owned airport in Kearny Mesa.

The FAA is powerless to stop construction because the building is a block outside the official airport boundary.

The California Department of Transportation is so concerned about the building that it is considering getting a court order to halt its construction.

The state agency sent the developer, Sunroad Enterprises, a warning in late September: "If an aircraft accident occurs at the site of the (building) because of this violation, you are assuming all liability for the accident."

Ten days ago, the city's Department of Land Use and Economic Development — which approved the building plans in 1997 — ordered that work on the top two stories be halted until safety issues could be worked out with the FAA and the state. The San Diego City Attorney's Office said the city had no choice, because the FAA warning described the building as a hazard to air traffic.

Sunroad's vice president for development, Tom Story, says he is confident that once the talks are over, the \$45 million building, which already is framed, will remain at its current height.

SEE **Office tower, A14**

### OVERVIEW

**Background:** The Federal Aviation Administration has declared a 12-story building under construction near Montgomery Field a hazard to airplanes landing at the Kearny Mesa airport in bad weather. That flight path takes planes within 400 feet of the building, and is used for about 10 percent of all landings.

**What's happening:** The city has ordered work on the upper two floors halted while the safety issues raised by the FAA are addressed.

**The project:** The developer, Sunroad Enterprises, is well into the planning stages for two more buildings in the complex that will be even taller when completed.



Democrat Phil Angelides stumped at an Oceanside bakery yesterday ... Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune



... as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Pleasanton GOP offices. AP

Republicans glum in final weekend as they struggle to hold Congress. **A10**

Filling DeLay's seat poses odd campaign problems for GOP in Texas. **A12**

## New rules will alter process for international adoptions

By Elizabeth Bernstein  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

If all goes as planned, the United States will ratify the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoptions sometime next year. Although no one knows exactly what the new policy will mean for prospective parents, one clear benefit is this: The rules require agencies to try harder to collect health information on children.

Some adoption professionals say adopting a baby overseas may take longer or cost more money. The roster of countries that Americans adopt babies from could change as well, and that has some people with pending

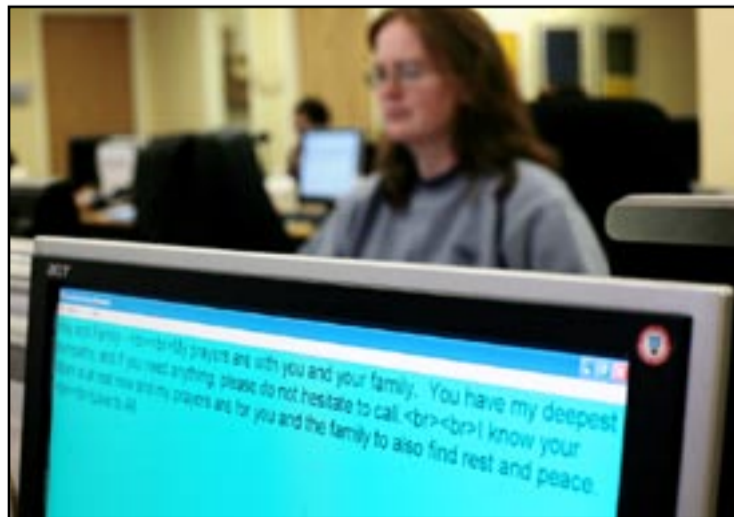
applications worried they will be caught in limbo.

"People are nervous," says Diane Kunz, executive director of the New York-based Center for Adoption Policy, a nonprofit group that works to educate people about domestic and international adoption. "People are saying to themselves, 'How will this affect me?'"

Some countries that are party to the treaty but send relatively few children to the United States for adoption — such as Brazil and Mexico — might allow more American adoptions once the United States implements the new

SEE **Adoptions, A17**

## On Web sites, it's not nice to speak ill of dead



A screener for Legacy.com in Evanston, Ill., monitored guest books for inappropriate comments. The company receives more than 6 million visitors a month. New York Times News Service

By Ian Urbina  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

EVANSTON, Ill. — Long-silent mistresses, disgruntled former employees, estranged family members — Katie Falzone has seen them all.

They turn to the online guest books at the obituary Web site where she works, Legacy.com, to convey unflattering thoughts about the recently departed.

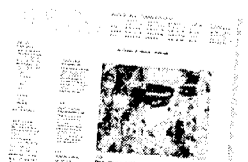
It's Falzone's job to stop them. Here in a room full of glowing computer terminals and hushed conversations, she and 44 other screeners pore over the 18,000 notes sent daily about the newly deceased, hoping

SEE **Online obituaries, A15**

San Franciscan creates a Web site that tracks the untimely deaths of MySpace members. **E1**

### INSIDE YOUR U-T

For a roundup of notable stories in today's *Union-Tribune*, turn to the next page, **A2**.



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Dusty Baker may be the big name in the Padres' manager search, but another guy has more leverage.

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