

WAITING GAME

Partly cloudy, warm and humid today, with showers due to arrive tonight.
Forecast, **E16**

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Pricing pressure tied to toy recall

To meet demands from American retailers to keep costs low, Chinese manufacturers may be skirting safety standards.

BY **TIM JOHNSON**
and **KEVIN G. HALL**
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

BEIJING — This week's product recall by toy maker Mattel Inc. is the latest black eye for the "Made in China" label, but experts here and abroad believe that U.S. manufacturers and importers may share the blame by putting relentless pressure on Chinese suppliers to deliver lower prices to American consumers.

"Everybody is pushing, pushing, pushing for lower and lower prices. The vendors are squeezed to the point where they aren't making a profit anymore. So they are looking to cut corners," said Peter Dean, a former U.S. toy company executive who now teaches at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The squeeze on China's manufacturers, led by big American retailers, means low prices and low inflation for U.S. consumers. But perversely, it may now be giving an incentive for Chinese manufacturers to cut corners or outright cheat.

Carter Keithley has heard that toy manufacturers in China are getting squeezed. But as president of the New York-based Toy Industry Association, which represents U.S. toy makers and toy importers, he's not sympathetic.

"It is absolutely forbidden to cut corners on safety simply be-

SEE **RECALL, A8**

Divorce brief hit by critics

Groups say Governor Carcieri's legal filing in a same-sex divorce case also takes issue with the state's no-fault divorce laws.

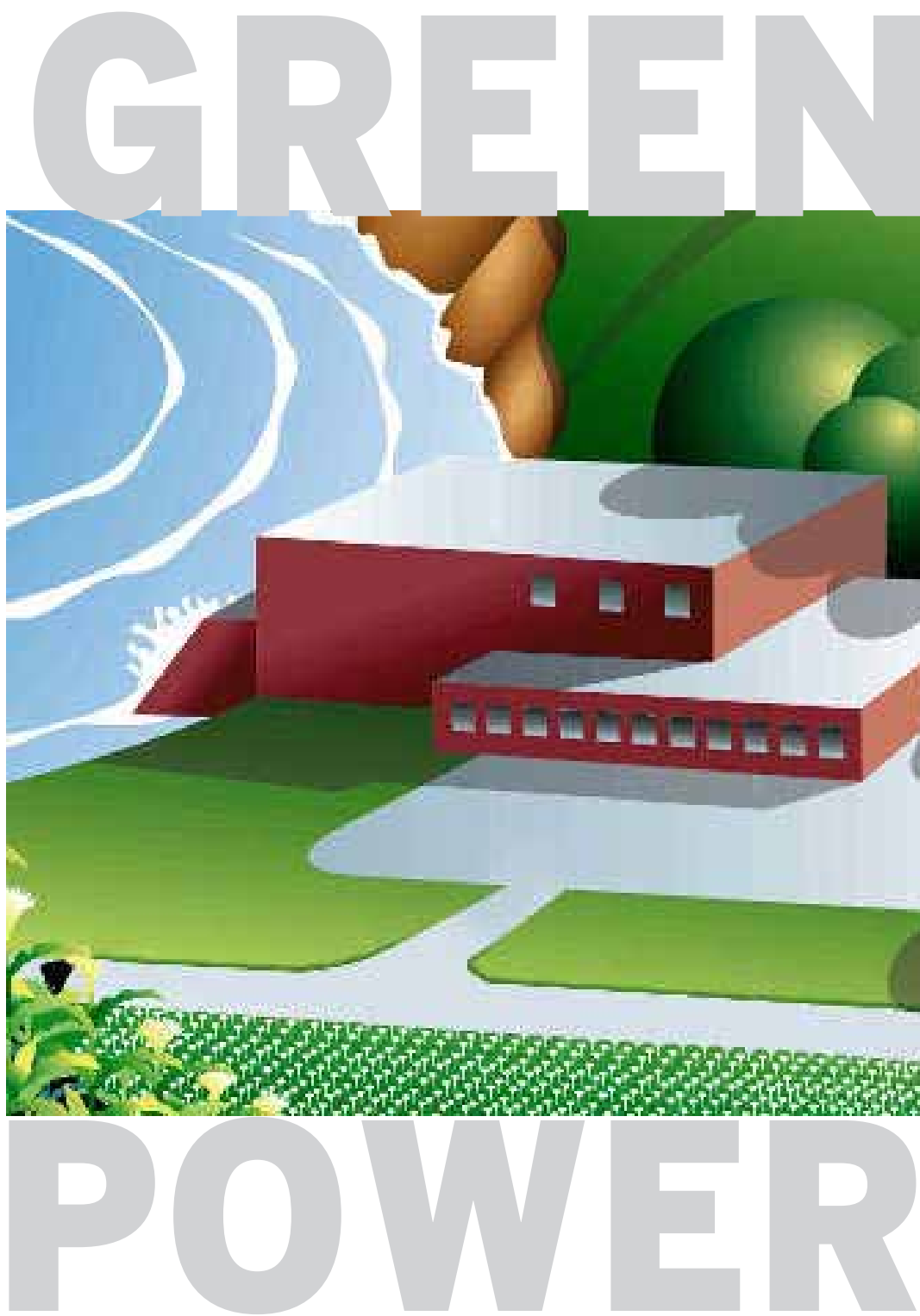
BY **EDWARD FITZPATRICK**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Four organizations yesterday called for Governor Carcieri to withdraw the legal brief he filed in the state's first same-sex divorce case, saying the document includes an "inexplicable attack" on Rhode Island's no-fault divorce laws.

"Although it has not been publicized at all, your brief contains a frontal attack on the concept of no-fault divorce, a fundamental principle of family law for over three decades in Rhode Island (and much of the rest of the country)," the groups wrote. "It is hard to imagine why the brief even touches on this issue, other than to turn the brief-writing opportunity into an ideological pulpit."

The local affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, the local chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the National Association of Social Workers/Rhode Island sent Carcieri a two-page letter, saying no-fault di-

SEE **DIVORCE, B6**



Energy is all around us — in the wind, the waves, the sun. But such renewable sources supply only about 9 percent of our electricity. As fossil fuels get harder and more expensive to produce, conservation and renewable alternatives are increasingly important. This five-day series explores renewable energy in Rhode Island and ways to conserve energy while saving money.

DAY 5

Fleet of companies are trying to harness the ocean's might

BY **MICHELLE J. LEE**
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

NARRAGANSETT

The model is simple: three plastic pipes that form a triangle-shaped buoy, bouncing up and down in a University of Rhode Island wave tank. But it is designs like this that hold the potential to harness a new source of power.

The spar buoy is part of a research project being conducted by Malcolm L. Spaulding, a professor of ocean engineering at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography; Stephan Grilli, also a professor of ocean engineering; Annette Grilli, an assistant research professor and Stephan Grilli's wife; and Jon Merrill, a URI ocean engineering graduate student.

Spaulding specializes in computer models of ocean currents. His work has been used to search for people and vessels lost at sea, predict damage from oil spills

and track marine pollution. With the buoy, Spaulding and his fellow scientists hope to turn the churning, rolling ocean waves into pure electricity.

Inside each PVC pipe are magnetic generators capable of producing small amounts of energy, about 0.2 watts at its peak. If the model is built to a larger scale, with pipes 10 meters — or 32.8 feet — it could generate enough power to charge a battery or be an independent power source for an offshore observation station.

"The idea is to get the design so the more 'heave' we get, the better," Spaulding said.

As any sailor, swimmer and surfer can attest, the ocean is a strong and vibrant source of power.

Research in converting wave energy into electricity started in the United States during the 1970s oil crisis, Spaulding said. Since then, there have been many com-

panies attempting to turn the force of the pounding surf and swirling waters into electricity.

Forty-five wave and tidal energy projects have been approved around the country, and 15 other proposals are pending, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Web site.

There are six projects under way that will use the currents of the Long Island Sound. The endeavor that is the furthest along is by Verdant Power, a Canadian-American renewable energy company that recently placed six tidal turbines, similar in design to underwater windmills, in the East River in New York City. The electricity is being used to power a Gristedes supermarket, a parking structure and a Verdant control room, according to the company's Web site.

Other wave turbines are planned for Vineyard Sound

SEE **WAVES, A2**

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM MURPHY / THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Your turn: Would you use energy from alternative sources? To respond, and for more on the progress of renewable energy in Rhode Island, and ways you can conserve, go to www.projo.com

DCYF seen in danger of money crunch

The child-welfare agency is on pace to spend its entire first-quarter budget well before the end of the three-month period, leaving it unable to pay providers.

BY **STEVE PEOPLES**
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — The Department of Children, Youth and Families is having a difficult summer.

The agency learned in late June that it was a target of a sweeping class-action lawsuit filed by the state's child advocate, alleging widespread abuse in Rhode Island's foster-care system.

Then, the agency was blocked by a Family Court judge from implementing a new policy mandated by the General Assembly that was touted as a cost-saving measure.

Now, it appears that the department is about to go broke.

The DCYF is on pace to spend its entire first-quarter child-welfare budget by mid September, agency director Patricia Martinez said yesterday. And a provision passed in the state budget prevents state officials from shifting

money to cover the shortfall until the beginning of the second quarter, Oct. 1.

That will temporarily leave the department unable to pay dozens of child-welfare providers — group homes, shelters, and independent-living programs — that care for thousands of Rhode Island children removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.

The immediate effect on the children in state custody is unclear, Martinez said. The providers are not legally required to care for Rhode Island's children without payment.

"That's something we need to figure out," Martinez said. "It affects the providers, but also the kids."

Child-welfare providers representing nearly 40 organizations held an emergency meeting late last week to discuss the

SEE **DCYF, A7**

Death count climbs in Iraqi bombings

More than 250 people, many members of an obscure sect, were killed in the sophisticated attack.

BY **MEGAN GREENWELL**
and **DLOVAN BRWARI**
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The confirmed death toll from four coordinated truck bombings in northern Iraq passed 250 yesterday, as rescue workers used bulldozers and bare hands to recover bodies in two isolated communities near the Syrian border. The attack now ranks as the deadliest of the Iraq war.

Officials cautioned that many more bodies might lie under clay-brick rubble in the villages of Qataniyah and Jazeera, where almost every house was flattened by the quick succession of suicide explosions Tuesday night. As rescuers arrived with bulldozers to assist in the recovery effort, sobbing survivors gestured toward relatives' arms and legs sticking out from under collapsed houses, television images showed.

"This is an act of ethnic cleans-



Rescue workers bring a woman injured in Tuesday's bombing to a hospital in Dahuk, Iraq.

ing, if you will, almost genocide," Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq, told CNN.

Twenty-four hours after the blasts, there was no explanation

SEE **IRAQ, A11**

For many colleges, rankings no longer make the grade

But despite a growing protest movement, parents, students — and the schools — will be anxiously awaiting the release tomorrow of U.S. News & World Report's annual list.

BY **JUSTIN POPE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

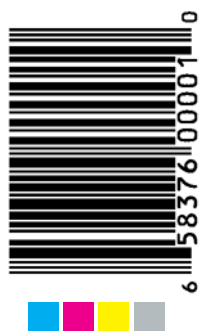
U.S. News & World Report releases its annual college rankings tomorrow in the face of the loudest and best-organized criticism from educators the maga-

zine has ever encountered.

But for all the complaints that the rankings warp college admissions and distract colleges from educating students, U.S. News still has the upper hand. Colleges are having a hard time quitting the magazine's annual beauty contest.

Sixty-two colleges have enlisted in an anti-rankings campaign led by education activist Lloyd Thacker. But a quick Web search shows even some of those schools haven't fulfilled a pledge to stop using their rankings to advertise

SEE **RANKINGS, A2**



INSIDE TODAY

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The Providence Journal SUMMERTIME FUND™



A total of \$940 was donated last week. See the latest donations **B3**.

DEVELOPMENT AT QUONSET

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation gives preliminary approval allowing a Florida developer to lease 32 acres at the Quonset Airport to construct a shipbuilding and repair yard for giant yachts in the Quonset Business Park. **F1**

WARNING TO PARENTS

The Food and Drug Administration issues an advisory warning parents never to give cough and cold medicines to children under the age of 2 unless instructed to do so by a doctor. **A4**



GUILTY PLEA FOR NBA REFEREE

Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy pleads guilty to felony charges of taking cash payoffs from gamblers and betting on games he officiated. **C2**