

NATION IN BRIEF Baird's former nanny to leave U.S.

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Body

An illegal alien who once worked as a **nanny** for Zoe Baird, the **former** attorney general nominee, has agreed to voluntarily **leave** the country, an immigration official said.

Richard Kenney, a spokesman for the **U.S.** Immigration and Naturalization Service, said that during a meeting with immigration officials in Hartford, Conn., Lillian Cordero agreed Tuesday to return to her native Peru.

Ms. Cordero, 32, and her **former** husband, Victor Cordero, 26, who worked as a chauffeur for Ms. Baird, figured prominently in Ms. **Baird's** decision to withdraw her nomination last week. There was a public outcry over her illegal hiring of the couple as household help. Mr. Cordero already has left the country.

- EX-PRIEST GETS 6 MONTHS FOR MOLESTING SITTER. A **former** priest accused of sexually abusing dozens of children in three states was sentenced to six months in jail and 10 years' probation for molesting his children's babysitter. James Porter, 57, was convicted last month in Stillwater, Minn., of six counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct for fondling the teenager on a living room couch in 1987. Judge Kenneth Maas said he departed from state sentencing guidelines, which recommended only 2 1/2 years of probation, because Porter showed "no sign of remorse, only denial."

Porter, who left the priesthood in 1974 and lives with his family in the St. Paul suburb of Oakdale, has been indicted in Massachusetts on 46 counts of molesting children in the 1960s.

-A LITTLE HEART SENSOR: A sensor the size of a credit card was implanted in the chest of a 73-year-old man in an experiment that could help treat congestive heart failure more precisely and easily, doctors said. An estimated 2.3 million to 3 million Americans suffer congestive heart failure, which kills 34,000 Americans a year.

The condition, caused by a damaged heart muscle slowing the flow of blood, can result from high blood pressure, heart attack, atherosclerosis, a congenital heart defect, rheumatic fever or lung disease. In a two-hour operation Wednesday, doctors at the Mid America Heart Institute of St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City implanted the 2-by- 2 1/2-inch sensor into the chest of Charles Wilson, a funeral director from Paola, Kan. The sensor, implanted below the collarbone, measures the amount of oxygen in the blood and the pressure in the lung's arteries.

-TANK EXPLOSION KILLS WELDER: A welder working on the top of a chemical storage tank in Houston was killed when his torch set off an explosion that blew him 100 feet, fire officials said. One other worker was treated for facial burns. "I saw these two men up there and it (the tank) exploded like a watermelon and it was just melting," said witness Jimmy Jackson. "It shook everything." A four-alarm fire set off by the blast was brought under control within an hour. Officials told people within a half-mile to stay inside because of the risk of hazardous fumes. The tank held sodium sulfide, which becomes hydrogen sulfide when it burns. It is considered a low to moderate hazard.

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-JUDGE OUSTED OVER MLK REMARK: A Minnesota judge was removed from the bench for twice making a derogatory reference to the holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. Frederick R. "Fritz" Weddel, 64, admitted using the phrase twice the week before the Jan. 18 holiday. The judge called the holiday "Martin Luther Coon Day." He was removed last week after officials received a complaint from a court employee in Bemidji. "He was very remorseful," Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice A.M. "Sandy" Keith said Wednesday. "He felt terrible. But we are not going to tolerate that. We cannot have that in the court system, and he knows that."

-TEEN SENTENCED IN HOMOSEXUAL KILLING: A Madison, Ind., teenager who watched as three friends tortured and burned a 12-year-old to death to avenge a supposedly wrecked homosexual affair was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Toni Lawrence, 16, wept but made no statement as Jefferson Circuit Judge Ted Todd imposed the maximum sentence. She pleaded guilty last year to a reduced charge of criminal confinement causing serious injury in the Jan. 11, 1992, death of Shanda Renee Sharer. Witnesses said Melinda Loveless, now 17, masterminded the killing because she thought Shanda had won the affections of her lesbian lover. Loveless testified this week that Lawrence sat terrified while the others bludgeoned and sodomized Shanda, choked and cut her, then doused her with gasoline and burned her alive.

PEOPLE

CBS President Laurence Tisch and his wife, Wilma Stein Tisch, are giving \$ 5 million to Skidmore College. Mrs. Tisch is a 1948 graduate of Skidmore, a liberal arts college 30 miles north of Albany, N.Y. The gift will be used to fund annual operations, create a permanent professorship and a student scholarship and boost the school's endowment, now about \$ 49 million, Skidmore officials said.

AMERICAN GRAFFITI

A man who took a cab on a lengthy ride to a Philadelphia bank and on to a motel paid the \$ 125 fare with cash splattered with red dye and was arrested on bank robbery charges after the cabdriver tipped police. John Sarau, 29, was arrested Tuesday night and charged with robbing a Commonwealth Federal Savings Bank of more than \$ 14,000 last Friday. He was held without bail pending arraignment.

According to the FBI, a dye pack inserted in the money exploded as he ran from the bank. The FBI said Mr. Sarau and a girlfriend directed the cab from Runnemede, N.J., to the bank in North Wales Township, northwest of Philadelphia.

Graphic

James Porter photo: Houston firefighters battle flames after an explosion at a chemical tank Thursday. / Associated Press photo: Nothing to say A TV news reporter points a microphone at one of three lowland gorillas released from quarantine Thursday at Pittsburgh Zoo. The three, born in 1991 at Cincinnati Zoo, go on display in Pittsburgh this spring. / Associated Press

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