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Actors and writers near Netflix's office in Los Angeles on Friday. It is the first time since 1960 that both unions are on strike at once.

Sitcom Queen In New Role: Strike Leader

By JOHN KOBLIN
and NICOLE SPERLING

The stage was different, and so was the tone. But the voice was unmistakable.

Fran Drescher, the owner of a distinctly nasal, Queens-inflected accent, made her name in Hollywood for her starring role in the sitcom "The Nanny." On Thursday, she appeared before dozens of cameras as the president of the actors' union that voted unanimously earlier in the day to go on strike, delivering a fiery argument depicting the stakes of the decision.

"The eyes of the world and particularly the eyes of labor are upon us," Ms. Drescher said. "What happens to us is important. What's happening to us is happening across all fields of labor."

She shook her fists in indignation. "I am shocked by the way the people that we have been in business with are treating us!" she continued. "It is disgusting. Shame on them!"

Ms. Drescher is the latest in a long line of familiar faces — Ronald Reagan, Patty Duke and Charlton Heston among them — to run SAG-AFTRA, the union that represents tens of thousands of screen actors. But it amounts to a surprising plot twist in her long career.

As the Thursday news conference made clear, she is now a leading face of a resurgent labor movement nationally. How she handles it in the coming weeks, and possibly months, could help determine the fate of 160,000 actors.

The actors' strike, which went into effect on Friday, is a crisis point for Hollywood, which had already been rocked in recent years

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Europe Is Struggling to Adapt to Extreme Heat

By GAIA PIANIGIANI

FLORENCE, Italy — Tourists sheltered under umbrellas as they lined up at Florence's majestic cathedral this week, looking for shade. Street vendors peddled fans and straw hats. Locals splashed their faces at water fountains, all seeking a respite from Europe's latest heat wave.

"It feels like home," said Alina Magrina, a 64-year-old tourist from California, parts of which, like much of the southern United States, have been hit by sweltering temperatures, too. "But at home, we move from one air-conditioned space to the next." Walking in the sun in Florence was making her chest hurt, she said, stopping to buy an extra fan on the Italian city's iconic Ponte Vecchio.

Extreme heat has now become a fixture of summer months in

Limited Resources and Few Investments in Possible Solutions

many parts of the world, not only in the United States, but especially in Europe, a continent defined by its almost immutable architecture and ways of life. Yet, though Europe is warming more swiftly than the global average, each year it seems particularly unprepared.

Experts say Europe's governments have in significant ways failed to heed the alarms sounded nearly 20 years ago, when a heat wave in 2003, the continent's hottest year on record, left 70,000 people dead by some estimates. A report published this week attributed 61,000 deaths in Europe to its

searing temperatures last summer.

This year threatens to repeat the calamity. In some parts of southern Europe, heat waves started as early as May. The most recent heat wave — called Cerberus for the multiheaded dog that guards the gates of the underworld — tilted temperatures well above 37 degrees Celsius, or nearly 99 degrees Fahrenheit, in Florence, Rome and parts of Sardinia and Sicily this week.

Another round of high temperatures, part of the heat wave caused by an African anticyclone, is expected in the coming days, with peaks of 48 degrees Celsius.

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BASTILLE DAY A heat wave and social unrest led to fireworks cancellations in France. PAGE A9



Cooling down at a public fountain in Florence, Italy, where temperatures have hit deadly highs.

Pizza Crusts Helped Police Identify Suspect in Unsolved Killings

discovered.

Since then, investigators have tried to determine whether the killings had been committed by one person or by multiple attackers. But for more than a decade the cases went unsolved.

Then Rex Heuermann, an architect who had lived most of his life in Nassau County and worked in Manhattan, was taken into cus-

Long Island Man Held in 3 Women's Deaths

tody on Thursday, accused of killing three women and is suspected in the murder of a fourth. Before his arrest, investigators had sifted through clues as simple

as a monogrammed belt wrapped around one of the victims and as sophisticated as the electronic signals of disposable mobile phones.

Mr. Heuermann was charged with three counts of first degree murder and three counts of second degree murder in the killings of Amber Lynn Costello, Megan Waterman and Melissa Barth.

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A low-level worker has received a target letter from the special counsel in the classified-files case.

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Parked freight trains snarl traffic in towns, and a powerful lobby keeps the government from intervening.

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In honor of "Theater Camp," actors share their own memories, from first

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Curtains Opened for Them

kisses to finally belonging.

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Migrants Make Their Mark

New York City's leaders say caring for the newcomers costs billions. But economists say their arrival will eventually prove to be an advantage.

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Jay-Z is the subject of an elaborate summer exhibition at Brooklyn Public Library. He was surprised, too.

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The kingdom's free-spending pursuit of the world's best soccer players has unleashed a feeding frenzy among agents, executives, self-appointed rainmakers and scammers.

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