

The New York Times

Late Edition

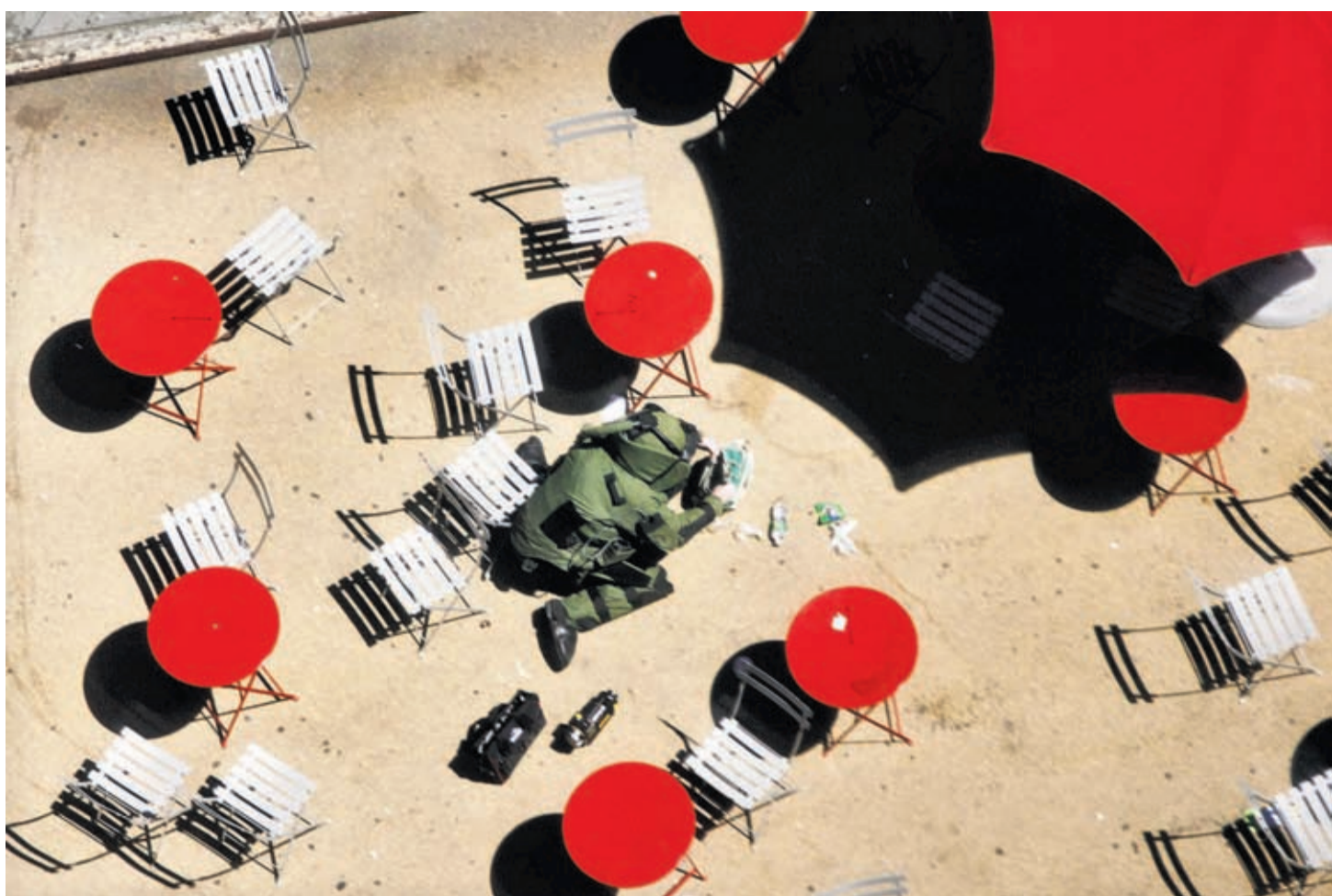
Today, increasingly windy, a shower or gusty thunderstorm, high 75. Tonight, strong wind, colder, partly cloudy, low 46. Tomorrow, windy, cool, high 58. Details, Page D8.

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SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS

More Bomb Scares in Times Square

The bomb squad checked a suspicious bag in Times Square on Friday, finding socks and other items. It was one of two alerts that led to the area's evacuation. Reports of suspicious packages have risen since the failed car bombing last weekend, officials said.

Albany's No. 2 Is Now Stewing On the Sidelines

By DANNY HAKIM

ALBANY — While Gov. David A. Paterson met inside his office with aides to prepare for a recent news conference, his lieutenant governor, Richard Ravitch, was milling around outside, waiting for the appearance to begin.

"I don't know what he is going to say," Mr. Ravitch told a reporter.

A few minutes later, an aide beckoned Mr. Ravitch to join the governor in the office. But the door turned out to be locked, leaving the lieutenant governor of New York fumbling with the knob as cameras rolled. A week later, Mr. Ravitch referred to the episode as "the day that I couldn't get through the door."

Ten months after he was brought aboard the administration to bring it new seriousness and depth, Mr. Ravitch, 76, has been relegated to the sidelines, an awkward position for a man accustomed to being at the center of the action.

He has been unable to spur progress on the key assignment

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'We All Were Sure We Were Going to Die'

By IAN URBINA and JUSTIN GILLIS

NEW ORLEANS — Nearly 50 miles offshore at the big oil rig floating on a glassy-calm sea, a helicopter landed early on the morning of April 20, carrying four executives from BP, the oil company. The men were visiting the Deepwater Horizon to help honor the crew for its standout safety record.

The rig workers were buzzing for another reason. They were nearly done with the latest job. It had been a little tricky, but it was nothing they could not handle.

As night fell, Micah Joseph Sandell, 40, was in the small cab of his crane, three stories above the bustling deck. Two floors down from the helipad, men in red coveralls waited for dinner in a hall lined with gold safety plaques. Eugene Dewayne Moss, a 37-year-old crane operator, realized he needed to tear himself away from a movie to get ready for his overnight shift.

"I thought, Oh man, I've got to go," Mr. Moss recalled. "I got up, turned my TV off."

Seconds later, a thundering explosion rocked the rig, the beginning of a terrifying night for the men who would survive one of the most harrowing disasters

Workers on Oil Rig Recall a Terrible Night of Blasts

in the history of the oil business.

All over the ship, men snapped into action. Sleeping workers leapt from their beds. Then came a second explosion, even louder than the first. They later struggled to describe it — a tornado of fire, a nuclear bomb, a jet engine exploding. But a half-dozen rig workers interviewed this week all agreed on one thing, recalling that moment: "We all were sure we were going to die," said Dennis Dewayne Martinez, 30, a supervisor on the rig.

The Deepwater Horizon was one of the most sophisticated drilling rigs on the planet.

Commissioned in 2001, the ship, 396 feet from stem to stern, could park in the water, lock onto satellites to measure an exact position and shoot water out of a series of thrusters to maintain that position. Even with waves crashing against the keel, the rig could steady itself for the precision work of sending drill pipes more than six miles down, dead straight, through the ocean floor and deep into the earth's crust.

Only the year before, the Horizon had set a world record by punching through 35,000 feet of water and rock — nearly seven miles — in the Gulf of Mexico, creating a well called Tiber for BP, the oil giant once known as

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British Parties In Negotiations On a Coalition

Conservatives Talking to Liberal Democrats

By JOHN F. BURNS

LONDON — The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats began intensive talks on Friday to try to fashion an unlikely marriage that would allow them to form a government quickly and reassure jittery financial markets after an election that denied any party a clear majority.

David Cameron, the Conservative leader, said the talks between the parties had been "constructive," and urged quick action as negotiations raced to conclude before the markets open Monday. The two parties are far apart on some policy issues, and many Conservatives balk at the Liberal Democrats' demand to change Britain's current electoral system. But both parties suggested a compromise could be struck.

"We must sort things out, as quickly as possible, for the good of the country," Mr. Cameron said, and added: "The national interest is clear: the world is looking to Britain for decisive action."

On Friday morning, Mr. Cameron called Nick Clegg, the Liberal Democrat leader, and made what he called "a big, open and comprehensive offer," in the face of voters' rejection of Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the Labour Party, which has governed Britain for 13 years.

The terms of the deal could involve a formal coalition or a looser pact involving the Liberal Democrats remaining on the opposition benches, but backing a minority Conservative government tied to a raft of policy commitments to the smaller party.

But before any of the details could be thrashed out, Britain was struggling to adjust to a new political landscape that seemed filled with uncertainties, as well as significant risks. There is a prospect of a weak and potentially unstable alliance in power, just when decisive government is most needed to deal with a bat-

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ORIGIN OF SCARE ON WALL STREET ELUDES OFFICIALS

A FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

Clues Sought in Tangle of Data — Traders Are Left on Edge

By GRAHAM BOWLEY

A day after a harrowing plunge in the stock market, federal regulators were still unable on Friday to answer the one question on every investor's mind: What caused that near panic on Wall Street?

Through the day and into the evening, officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal agencies hunted for clues amid a tangle of electronic trading records from the nation's increasingly high-tech exchanges.

But, maddeningly, the cause or causes of the market's wild swing remained elusive, leaving what amounts to a \$1 trillion question mark hanging over the world's largest, and most celebrated, stock market.

The initial focus of the investigations appeared to center on the way a growing number of high-speed trading networks interact with one another and with venerable exchanges like the New York Stock Exchange. Most investors are unaware that these competing systems have fractured the traditional marketplace and have displaced exchanges like the Big Board as the dominant force in stock trading.

The silence from Washington cast a pall over Wall Street, where shaken traders returned to their desks Friday morning hoping for quick answers. The markets remained on edge, as the uncertainty over what caused Thursday's wild swings added to the worries over the running debt crisis in Greece.

In a joint statement issued after the close of trading, the S.E.C. and the Commodity Futures

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White Pages May Go the Way Of the Rotary-Dialed Phone

By PATRICK MCGEEHAN

The digital age may claim another victim.

The residential White Pages, those inches-thick tomes of fine-print telephone listings that may be most useful as doorstops, could stop landing with a thud on doorsteps across New York later this year.

Verizon, the dominant local phone company in the state, asked regulators on Friday to allow it to end the annual delivery of millions of White Pages to all of its customers in New York. The company estimates that it would save nearly 5,000 tons of paper by ending the automatic distribution of the books.

Only about one of every nine households uses the hard-copy listings anymore, according to Verizon, which cited a 2008 Gallup survey. Most have switched

to looking up numbers online or calling directory assistance. The phone book for many people, it seems, has gone from indispensable tool to unavoidable nuisance.

"Phone books have been a very visceral issue," said Scott Cassel, executive director of the Product Stewardship Institute, an environmental group in Boston. "They do tend to pile up, particularly in apartments. More and more, people are finding that they don't need them, but they can't find a way to make them stop."

When residential directories

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Dynasty at Stake, Imelda Marcos Campaigns With a Vengeance

By NORIMITSU ONISHI

BATAC, the Philippines — At a mall food court here, where she was sitting with reporters covering her campaign for the House of Representatives, Imelda Marcos inserted iPod earbuds on either side of her bouffant coiffure.

She had gamely accepted an offer to listen for the first time to "Here Lies Love," a new rock opera by David Byrne and Fatboy Slim that chronicles her rise from country girl to the first lady of the Philippines. Removing the earbuds, tilting her head slightly, she said in an exaggerated tone, "I'm flattered; I can't believe it!"

Her life may already have been distilled into pop culture, her name reduced to a punch line about shoes. But a couple of months shy of 81 years, Mrs. Marcos is battling to restore the Marcos dynasty in nationwide elections on Monday, watching over a daughter running for provincial governor and over her only son, who is running for the Senate, a national office that the family hopes will be a stepping-stone back to the presidency.

She herself has been crisscrossing a rural district here in the north, the home of her late husband, Ferdinand E. Marcos, in a campaign that has been violent, even by Philippine standards. On a recent Sunday evening, she attended a fiesta where she was introduced as "still the queen, still the winner." The next day, she comforted the



JES AZNAR FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Imelda Marcos, running for a House seat, attended a pageant last month in Ilocos Norte.

widow of one of her campaign organizers, the fourth one to be assassinated so far.

If there is an urgency to Mrs. Marcos's step, it is because she is leading the family on two battle fronts. Rebellious nephews have, for the first time, split the extended clan here. And, more than anything else, public opinion polls have consistently indicated that the country's next president is likely to be Benigno S. Aquino III, the scion of the family that for

three decades fought the Marcoses for control of the Philippines.

More than parties or ideology, family rivalries have always defined Philippine politics. And no feud has shaped the modern Philippines more than the epic fight between the Marcoses and the Aquinos: the standoff between Mr. Marcos, the American-backed autocrat, and Benigno S. Aquino Jr., the opposition leader, which eventually led to Mr. Aquino's assassination, Mr. Marcos's

downfall and the rise of Corazon C. Aquino as president in 1986.

Mrs. Aquino's death last year led to emotional calls for her only son, a senator who had never shown much ambition for higher office, to run for the presidency. In a news conference announcing his candidacy, he said he wanted to muster the "political will" to recover the "hidden wealth of the Marcoses."

The Marcoses' only son, Ferdi-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Debate Over Land Mine Ban

The Obama administration is engaged in a sharp internal debate over whether to reverse course and join a treaty banning land mines. PAGE A9

NATIONAL A10-14

Trouble on the Home Front

Thousands serve in the military while worrying about spouses or relatives who are illegal immigrants. PAGE A11

Names With Bloodlines

The vampire series "Twilight" has inspired some of the most popular names for newborns. PAGE A10

NEW YORK A15-18

A Debate Team With an Edge

A group from Arthur Kill Correctional Facility brought firsthand knowledge to a debate on education in prisons against a team from the New School. Big City by Susan Dominus. PAGE A15



BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Job Growth Surged in April

Employers added 290,000 jobs last month, the largest gain in four years, in a wide range of industries. PAGE B1

New Help for Greece

European leaders pledged substantial support for Greece and new steps to attack a growing debt crisis. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-8

Stepping Lively

Seven women will stride, shuffle and stomp on an eight-foot-high platform in Bryant Park in "Walk the Walk," by the artist Kate Gilmore. PAGE C1

SPORTSSATURDAY D1-7

One More Tennis Challenge

A tennis academy that will challenge the sport's traditional thinking is being backed by an ex-player who thrived on doing just that: John McEnroe. PAGE D1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A20-21

Bob Herbert

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ONLINE

Hunting Everglades Invaders

A video report on Florida's efforts to control pythons, a goal complicated by tourists' interest in the former pets.

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THIS WEEKEND

The Moral Life of Babies



Can infants and toddlers really tell right from wrong? Plus: The post-Hispanic politician and China's arranged marriages. MAGAZINE



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