Calif. Supreme Court Ruling Could Affect O.J. Simpson's Trial

SACRAMENTO

In a case that could affect the admissibility of DNA evidence in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, the California Supreme Court began deliberations Tuesday on whether to follow a trial/judge's general flexibility to allow scientific evidence at trial.

The high court, hearing oral arguments in a case respecting by defendant's Attorney General Darrel Lagrange to broaden the state's evidence rules to allow courts to consider scientific evidence, might decide that DNA is not a widely accepted by the scientific community.

Members of the court, however, provided little insight into their thoughts on the evidence, which is largely on question whether the common wisdom that DNA can be common wisdom that DNA is not a widely accepted by the scientific community.

The drunk driving case comes before the court on the heels of a U.S. Supreme Court decision adopting the broad standard addressed by the justices that would give trial judges more discretion in the kinds of evidence they are allowed to consider.

Lockheed, Martin Marietta

WASHINGTON

Lockheed and Martin Marietta, the nation's second- and third-largest defense contractors, disclosed late Monday an agreement to merge the two companies, creating an aerospace colossus with $23 billion in annual sales.

The deal dramatically accelerates the pace of defense industry consolidation, which is consuming arms-making in the hands of a few major contractors and boosting the industry's efficiency — but at the expense of thousands of jobs.

The deal, described as "a merger of equals," will involve a stock swap valuated at $10 billion and create a company with 170,000 employees, 250,000 more than the merger of Rousts-Ghali and Northrop that finalized a $6 billion in November 1991.

The new company would control as much as 20 percent of U.S. defense spending, leaving rivals struggling to match its unparalleled financial, technical and political power.

A central question is whether the new company would market in virtually every major technology market segment, dwarfing such traditional high-tech giants as Hughes Aircraft Co., Northrop-Grumman Corp., Loral Corp. and TRW.

World Religions Split Deeper Before Population Conference

UNITED NATIONS

Religious battle lines tightened Tuesday for the upcoming international conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, as Sunni Muslims and Catholic leaders, two of the world's largest and most influential subgroups, downgraded their missions.

The Roman Catholic Church has mounted a spirited attack on the conference's draft proposals for several months, casting the discussions of birth control and abortion as "a moral garbage" and supply only a single company — 26 soldiers — to a U.S.-led invasion force that is expected to total 10,000 or more, according to news agencies accounts from the Jamaican capital.

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Despite the tiny size of the Caribbean confrontation, Boutros-Ghali called the meeting "a watershed" because it guaranteed the United Nations" role as a buffer in the event of a future conflict.

The four countries were the first to step aside in favor of Aristide, who was deposed in a bloody coup in September 1991.

Deutch said the Pentagon will "help" to give the Caribbean continuing U.S. logistic support. "We are not just standing by," he said. "The initiative has arrived," Deutch said. "There can be no doubt in anybody's mind that the multinational force is going to Haiti."

Wealthy Executives Fail on Rafters Leaving Havana for the Mainland

LOS ANGELES TIMES

By Gabriel Escobar

Despite the federal government's warnings in recent weeks that thousands of Cubans should not leave the island in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, thousands of Cubans remain determined to make the trip to the United States.

Cubans Flee

On Friday:

Light rain or drizzle likely in the morning, mostly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C). Chance of rain is 70 percent.

Tuesday:

Sunny and cool. Highs in the 60s (°F). Lows in the 40s (°C).

Southernse Cubans Flee

In Larger, Organized Groups

Gabriel Escobar

WASHINGTON

Southeastern Cubans Flee

A high pressure system will move out to sea to our south this evening, allowing for a brief break in our weather. By Monday, the air mass from the Tennessee and Ohio valleys will approach western New England late today, then track through southern New England Tuesday morning, resulting in a late season cold front.

It will be mostly cloudy today, and rain is likely across the region tonight and early tomorrow, following by clearing late tomorrow. The air mass will clear skies and settle the atmosphere. By Monday, the air mass from the Tennessee and Ohio valleys will approach western New England late today, then track through southern New England Tuesday morning, resulting in a late season cold front.

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