Mervyn's, Field's may be sold

By Tracie Rochon
The New York Times

Ending years of speculation, the Target Corp. said that it might jetison both its department store divisions: Mervyn's, with 666 stores, and Marshall Field's, the much-talked-about Midwest chain, led by a glittering, recently renovated Chicago flagship.

Target said Wednesday that it had hired the investment bank Goldman, Sachs to provide "alternatives," industry sources say that usually means a buyer.

In a recorded announcement, Douglas S. Steinman, Target's chief financial officer, said the book values of Mervyn's and Marshall Field's were about $8.4 billion each.

Several analysts and industry experts predicted that the two biggest department store chains — May Department Stores, which owns Robinson-May, and Federated, the parent of Macy's and Bloomingdale's — would fall over themselves bidding, especially for Marshall Field's.

"There's going to be a world-class bidding war," said Gilbert W. Harris, chairman of Financo, a New York investment banking firm.

Executives for May and Federated could not be reached for comment.

Bill Drehner, a senior retail analyst with Deutsche Bank, said Target had decided to pull the plug on its department stores — but not its 1,249 core Target discount stores — because the time was ripe to sell. Since Christmas, the department stores appear to have recovered some of the momentum they had lost in the last five years. Throughout 2005, the chains reported bleak

Device turns man into super strider

Tucson-based Raytheon Missile Systems has been awarded a $6.8 million U.S. Navy contract option to provide 30 Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missile Air Intercept Missile-120 C7 missiles and associated airborne instrumentation units. The work is to be completed by September 2009.

Richard Ducote

Taxes fund big array of jobs here

Richard Ducote
POWER WALKING

With exoskeleton, long marches, big loads less daunting

By Michelle Locke

BERKELEY, Calif. — Move over Hiconic Man and make room for BLEEX, the Bipedal Legged Exoskeleton. With its legs designed to turn an ordinary human into a superstriker, BLEEX is here to help people like soldiers or firefighters carry heavy loads for long distances, these boots are made for marching.

The design of this exoskeleton really benefits from human intellect and the strength of the machine," says Homayoon Kazerooni, who directs the Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley. "The device could help rescuers haul heavy equipment up high-rise buildings or turn third troops into striking super soldiers.

MECHANICAL NERVES

- BLEEX is a pair of mechanical legs that means include a power unit and a backpack-like frame for hauling.
- BLEEX's legs are attached to a modified pair of Army boots and are also controlled, allowing less weight to the user.

BLEEX IN ACTION

- Video of the BLEEX in action shows a man with his machine marching about, while the sound of grinding motors. The next step is making the power source quieter and stronger and making the body of the device lighter.

BEHIND THE PROJECT

- BLEEX is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA, the Pentagon, and development.

The Associated Press

The Arizona Cancer Center's Patient Assistance Fund will receive 10 percent of the proceeds from Saturday's grand opening of the new Bebe women's clothing store at La Encantada.

The opening will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at the store, 2005 E. Skyline Drive.

The Arizona Cancer Center is a University of Arizona Cancer Center of Excellence and a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center focusing on prevention, treatment, research and community education.

On Saturday, follow the building blocks of Rio Nuevo, the city's public-private effort to revitalize Downtown, www.azcentral.com/specialreports

NATIONAL

- After a two-day blackout that brought the wrath of satellite television viewers by the thousands, EchoStar Communications Corp. reached a deal that restored several popular channels such as MTV, Comedy Central, and Nickelodeon to the Dish Network.
- EchoStar dropped Viacom channels earlier in the day in a dispute over fees, affecting up to 1 million Dish satellite television viewers in Tucson and nationwide.

- America's shoppers showed more energy in February and boosted sales at the nation's retailers by 0.6 percent, a hopeful sign for healthy economic growth in the current quarter.

The increase reported by the Commerce Department came after sales rose by a revised 0.3 percent gain in January, typically a slow month for retailers.

- The seven-day average yield on money market mutual funds fell in the week that ended Tuesday to 0.6 percent, a level not seen since mid-August, the previous week, said Morningstar Inc., a Chicago research firm.

- Our tax dollars at work. That remains an important theme of the Star 200 directory of Southern Arizona's major employers. The 8th annual edition of the谁名册 now comes out in Sunday's paper. Y

- I've had a sneak preview of the top 10 page handout.

The largest employer in Southern Arizona is an hour's drive out of Tucson. It has been the No. 1 employer on the Star 200 nearly every year since the directory debuted in 1981. I don't want to take any chances away from Sunday's unveiling of the new list, but here's a hint: No. 1 is the Army.
POWER WALKING

With exoskeleton, long marches, big loads less daunting

By Michelle Locke
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Move over, Billie Jean King and make room for ILE-EX, the Berkeley Low Extremity Exoskeleton, with strap-on robot legs designed to turn an ordinary human into a super striker.

Ultimately intended to help people like soldiers or firefighters carry heavy loads for long distances, these boots are made for marching.

"The design of this exoskeleton really benefits from human intellect and the strengths of the machine," says Homayoon Kazerooni, who directs the Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory at the University of California-Berkeley.

There is no joystick, no keypad, no push button to drive the device," says Kazerooni, a professor of mechanical engineering.

"The pilot becomes an integral part of the exoskeleton."

What it won't do is turn you into a Borg, the gadget-happy gladiators of 'Star Trek' fame.

"The exoskeleton is not going to magically transform people into killing machines," says Kazerooni, known to his students as Professor

BUSINESS PROFILE / GETTING STARTED

Father's death led Tucsonan to new beginning

By Jane Erikson
The Arizona Star

Early three years have passed since Leslie Inazuza left a prominent marketing and communications job in Phoenix to be with her dying father in Tucson.

Inazuza was a double major in journalism and communications. Her employment history includes internships at KVOA and working with the UA Prevention Center, writing grant proposals and publicity materials to recruit women for a breast cancer research project.

She then landed the job she says defined her career: directing marketing and development for the Valley del Sol - Valley of the Sun, a Phoenix nonprofit that helps families deal with the threat and incidence of child abuse.

She held the job for three years.

"It was the first time I used my Spanish language skills professionally," says Inazuza. "I was dealing with a Latino population and much of my work was communicating in Spanish." Inazuza says "And Laura Barringer Gutierrez, the CEO of Valley del Sol, was a strong role model. She was a tremendous influence. She just

Leslie Inazuza is solidly grounded in her new business of public relations and marketing, with a focus on artists.