

Area News

'37 Alfa Romeo goes for cool \$4M to Stamford man

By James O'Keefe
Staff Writer

A Stamford car collector reportedly has added a rare — and expensive — Italian convertible to his collection.

Lawrence Auriana, a 55-year-old manager of a New York City-based investment firm, recently shelled out \$4 million for a 1937 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900B cabriolet, called "The Immortal 2.9," during a recent Christie's auction in Pebble Beach, Calif., the Monterey County Herald has reported.

Auriana's \$4.07 million bid for the gunmetal gray roadster with matching leather interior was a record for a classic



Auriana

Manhattan firm, the Kaufmann Fund, were not returned.

Christie's officials also were mum on

the sale and wouldn't confirm that Auriana — described on his company's Web site as a collector of vintage cars and former amateur race car driver — submitted the winning bid at the Aug. 29 car auction.

A portion of the proceeds from the classic Alfa will go to cancer research.

Auriana couldn't be reached for comment about the sale.

Messages left at his

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were not returned.

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the sale and wouldn't confirm that Auriana — described on his company's Web site as a collector of vintage cars and former amateur race car driver — submitted the winning bid at the Aug. 29 car auction.

Beth Shepherd, a Christie's spokeswoman, said the buyer had asked to remain anonymous and that the upscale auction company would honor that request.

"If we didn't, we wouldn't be Christie's," Shepherd said.

But the Monterey (Calif.) County Herald identified Auriana as the buyer in a story published last week.

Officials at the 1999 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance — a car show held the same weekend as the Christie's auction — confirmed Auriana is a Stamford resident. His 1956 Maserati 300S Fantuzzi Spyder took first place in the sports and racing postwar category at the show.

Within hours of his victory, Auriana reportedly walked into the nearby Christie's auction tent and placed a bid on the Alfa.

Auriana purchased the Alfa following a bidding war with an unnamed bidder, according to published reports. Bidding for the car opened at \$1 million. Among those who attended the auction were

"Tonight Show" host Jay Leno and his wife, Mavis.

Andy Baron — an associate editor at Robb Report, a luxury lifestyle magazine based in Massachusetts — also was there. He said Auriana declined to speak to the media after the sale of the Alfa.

Baron met Auriana several days before the auction at an Italian car show in Carmel, Calif. Auriana told Baron he was "an Alfa enthusiast."

Robb Report plans to publish a story on Auriana's purchase of The Immortal 2.9 in an upcoming issue.

The mystique surrounding the man

Please see \$4M, Page A5

City rep resigns after moving

By Tobin A. Coleman
Staff Writer

District 8 city Rep. William J. Lasko has resigned from the Board of Representatives after moving out of his district to

Girl's goal is a full gull



Former area politician accuses U.S. senator of sexual harassment

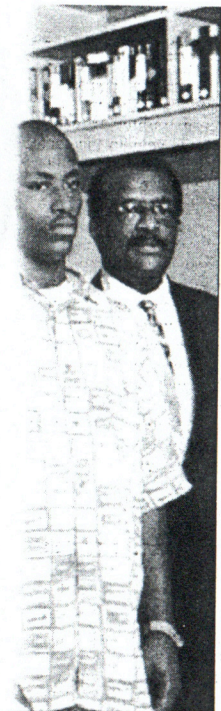
By Thomas J. McFeeley
Staff Writer

A former 4th Congressional District candidate has accused Montana's senior U.S. senator of sexual harassment after her dismissal as his chief of staff last month.

Christine Niedermeier, a two-time Democratic candidate for the 4th Congressional District seat, alleges that U.S. Sen. Max

Baucus added that he is "truly saddened" that Niedermeier made claims of sexual harassment in a Washington publication over the Labor Day weekend.

Niedermeier, now in her mid-40s, who served as a state repre-



AP photo
Keshon Moore, center, and two other men were stopped on the men on the turnpike.

college educations and with their lives, added in, who refused to allow us to question them. They continue to pursue part of the American," he said.

06 at Second Congregational East Putnam and North Maple

ATERS ANONYMOUS 7:30 9 p.m. Beginner/speaker. St. e's Church, 4 Riverside Ave., le. Meets in downstairs school 104. Entrance in rear parking information: call Ann at 661-9343.

ARE ASSISTANCE Hospital y assists in completion of e forms. Free. 11 a.m. to 2 nunch Hospital, 5 Perryville

for murder-for-hire defendant

Associated Press
NEW LONDON — A woman extradited from Ireland earlier this year to face charges in a murder-for-hire plot was turned down by a judge yesterday in her request to have her bond reduced.

Superior Court Judge Susan B. Handy decided to maintain Beth Ann Carpenter's bail at \$400,000 cash or a \$1 million surety bond. Carpenter was being held at York Correctional Institute in Niantic.

Carpenter, 35, is charged with capitol felony, conspiracy to commit murder and murder in the March 1994 slaying of her brother-in-law, Anson "Buzz"

Clinton III, near Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme. Clinton was shot five times in the chest.

Prosecutors allege Carpenter conspired with her former lover and law partner Haiman Clein to kill Clinton to end a bitter custody dispute over Carpenter's 3-year-old niece. Clinton was the child's stepfather, and authorities said Carpenter considered him an unfit husband for her sister and stepfather to her niece.

After the slaying, Carpenter moved to Ireland. She was arrested in November 1997 after a four-day stakeout of her Dublin apartment.

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interested in the seat.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Daniel McCabe said last night a Republican who wants to run for the position would be making a decision shortly.

"There is a person who is interested, and he just has to check a few things out," McCabe said.

Lasko, 44, was elected in December 1995 when he and Nanos defeated two Republicans in the general election. Lasko served on the board's Legislative and Rules, and Personnel committees.

While serving on the Personnel Committee, Lasko, a lawyer, said he enjoyed creating and

implementing a system of employment evaluations for city management employees. On the Legislative and Rules Committee, he enjoyed work on the Purchasing Ordinance. He indicated his work on the contract for police Chief Dean Esserman and involvement in the Civilian Police Training Academy among his accomplishments.

For about a year, Lasko said he and his wife, Wanda Beverly Lasko, had been renting their Hamilton Avenue residence while looking for a house to buy. Their new home on Four Brooks Road is in District 13.

Lasko thanked residents for allowing him to serve and said he will miss being on the board.

"It was a good, positive thing in my life, and I encourage the citizens of Stamford to get actively involved in the political process," Lasko said. "It's their city, their government and we all gain when the citizens of Stamford take an active role and volunteer for various committees and commissions and run for various boards."

Lasko's departure is the eighth from the 40-member 25th Board of Representatives, members of which were elected in December 1997 to four-year terms for the first time. Board members previously served two-year terms.

All but one of the vacancies occurred by resignation. City Rep.

George Johnson, D-3, died while in office last year. Democrats have a 31 to 9 edge on the board.

All the vacated positions have been filled by appointment, but the Charter mandates seats filled by appointment become vacant at the next municipal election, which is this year. Voters will choose one representative in Districts 1, 3, 12, 13 and 20; and two in District 9.

City and Town Clerk Lois Pontbriant said she believes the District 8 seat will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot but is checking with the secretary of the state to see whether the vacancy has occurred within the time allowed. If not, a special election would be held, she said.

Niedermeier

Continued from Page A3

crat, according to Bredehoff.

Baucus is in line to become the next ranking member of the Finance Committee, a position

held by retiring U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y.

Niedermeier twice ran for the 4th Congressional District seat. In 1986, she lost to then-U.S. Rep. Stuart McKinney. A year

later she lost to U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Bridgeport, in a special election after McKinney's death.

In 1975 and 1976, she served as a legislative assistant to

then-U.S. Rep. Christopher Dodd, now Connecticut's senior U.S. senator. She also has served on the Fairfield town council and was that town's deputy mayor.

\$4M

Continued from Page A3

who submitted the winning bid for the prized Alfa is almost as great as the mystique surrounding the automobile.

Fewer than 30 Alfa Romeo 2.9s were built.

The one sold by Christie's took third place in the 1939 Mille Miglia—a 1,000-mile race from Northern Italy to Rome and back.

The car was scrapped in the 1940s but later imported into Switzerland. It was fitted with a Chrysler engine and exported to an unknown destination in 1957, according to the Christie's auction catalog.

The car resurfaced in California in 1989. It was purchased by a California resident who resold it to an unnamed buyer. The car was restored and reunited with its original engine, according to the catalog.

"It is staggeringly beautiful," Colin Warrington, an auto specialist for Christie's in London, told the Monterey newspaper. "It is the perfect expression of blatant power."

The catalog description reads: "Firing it up releases a cacophony of sound that induces pure adrenaline... it is exhilarating to drive, attracting admiring and covetous glances from all, young and old."

The next expensive car sold at the August Christie's auction was a 1964 Ferrari, which went for \$2.1 million to an anonymous bidder. Other cars sold include a 1957 Mercedes Benz Roadster for \$442,500 and a 1956 Porsche Spyder for \$376,500.

— Mark Whittington of the Monterey County Herald and Andy Baron of Robb Report contributed to this story.

Police blotter

Stamford

Assault. A city man was assaulted early yesterday on the West Side, police said.

Police responded to a report of a man lying in Pressprich Street at 2:15 a.m., according to a police report.

The victim was bleeding from the side of his head, police said. The man told police he was punched, knocked to the ground and kicked by another man.

The victim was taken to Stamford Hospital, where he received stitches, police said.

The assailant was seen leaving the area in a tan car, according to police. No arrests have been made, and the incident is under investigation.

Assault. A Stamford man was arrested yesterday and charged with an Aug. 26 assault outside a downtown nightclub.

James Middleton, 28, of 70 Congress St. was charged with two counts of second-degree

Police found 10 envelopes of what appeared to be heroin in Davis' pants pocket, Lysobey said.

Davis was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of narcotics within 1,500 feet of a school, sale of narcotics and sale of narcotics within 1,500 feet of a school.

The occupants of the vehicle, Willie Fulton, 47, of 158 Flax Hill Road, and Mary Flood, 38, of 7

Commerce St., were each charged with possession of narcotics and possession of narcotics within 1,500 feet of a school.

Information on the suspects' bonds was not available. They are scheduled to appear Sept. 17 in state Superior Court in Norwalk.

Other arrests:

• Luther Allen, 56, of 18 W. Main St., Norwalk, was charged

Tuesday with third-degree assault.

• Serena Bailey, 26, of 10 Bartlett Ave., Norwalk, was charged Tuesday with third-degree assault.

• Gloria Bailey, 36, of 10 Bartlett Ave., Norwalk, was charged Tuesday with third-degree assault.

• Mark Norwood, 38, of 2916B Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, was charged Tuesday with third-degree assault.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Back To School
Shoes & Clothes

It's "back to school" time once again. We thought it fitting to look at the rich educational history of the oldest independent and public schools in both

