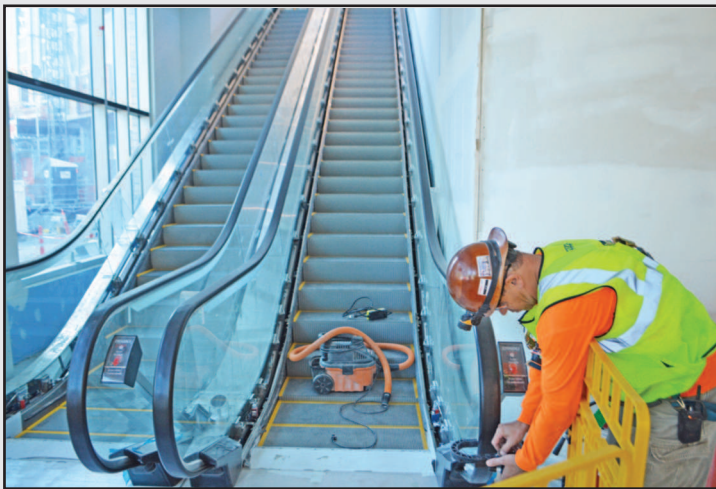




TEAMWORK Elevator constructors work in pairs and communicate via walkie talkie. For the last few months, Corey Hanley, right, has worked at the new Hyatt Regency convention center hotel, where his counterpart is Justas Porta, left. Typically elevator constructors work four 10-hour shifts a week, from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. But in boom times they can work as much as 20 hours a week overtime, paid at double-time under the union contract. Below, Hanley takes a look at an escalator at the Hyatt. Escalator work is considered more dangerous, but Hanley says a vigilant safety culture keeps workers safe: "In the 12 years I've been in the trade at Otis, we haven't had any major accidents where people were out of work."



From Page 6

medes who invented the elevator, not Elisha Otis. What Otis invented was a mechanical safety feature. Before then, elevators were considered too dangerous for routine use transporting people: If a rope were to break, a lift would come crashing down, killing its occupants. Otis invented a system based on speed and centrifugal force: If an elevator starts to fall faster than a given speed, a mechanical safety applies friction clamps to the guide rails, which stops the car. As much as steel girders, it was Otis' invention that made skyscrapers feasible.

Just as safety is important, the perception of safety is important too. That's one reason elevator constructors pay extreme attention to detail. A lot of care is taken to keep elevators quiet. Passengers don't like to hear noises. It makes them nervous.

"It's the little tiny details," Hanley says. "When you're putting the elevator in, if a single rail joint is out of plumb, you're going to feel that in the car every time it goes by. It's going to make a little bump. And the little bump is going to lead to a tick, and the tick is going to lead to a major knock. And noises in elevators freak



THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION An elevator machine room, a room the public doesn't know exists, is where today's elevators' smart controllers talk to each other. Hanley and Porter, above, helped set up the one at the Hyatt.

people out."

Hanley says his co-workers and he strive to build elevators to within a 64th of an inch of specifications. They do that using laser measuring tools, measuring tape, and plumb bobs.

"I think being a little OCD is a good thing for an elevator constructor," Hanley said. "You miss one little thing, it's going to make a noise."

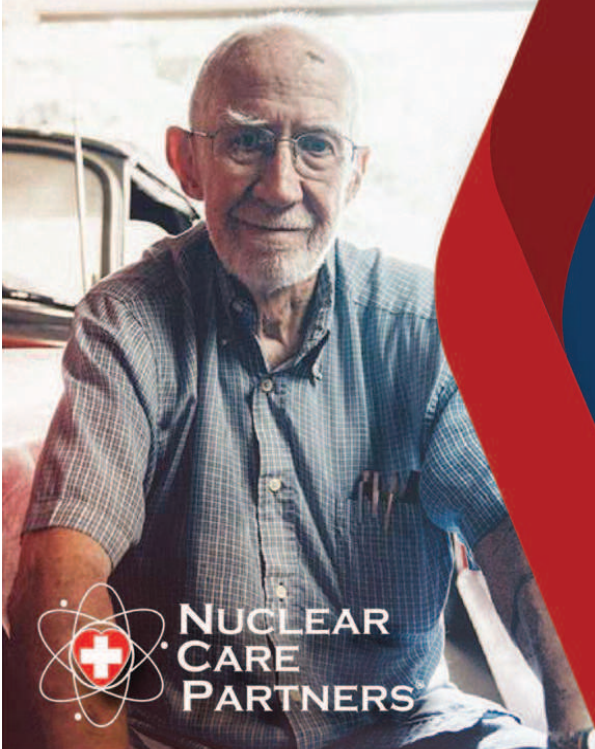
Or say an elevator service person sweeps out things that have fallen into the pit, and forgets to turn off the light. Most people look down when they get on an elevator. That light will make it possible for passengers to see into the shaft. Some passengers, afraid of heights, won't get on the elevator.

Knowing what they know, elevator constructors have to groan when Hollywood decides a movie plot needs an elevator scene.

"The number one thing that movies always get wrong is you can't open the doors," Hanley said. "If you're stuck in an elevator, you can't just pop the doors open and get out and climb up to the other door. Those doors are specifically designed so that you can't get out of them. In actuality you'd be much safer staying in the elevator until somebody comes to rescue you than trying to get out."

"It's the perfect job for me," Hanley said. "You get to build things, wire things, and troubleshoot, then step back, walk away, and say, 'I built that.'"

**FORMER
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY &
ATOMIC WORKERS**



*Have you
been diagnosed
with cancer or a
chronic disease?*

*You may qualify for up to \$400,000
in financial compensation and
no-cost medical benefits through the
Department of Labor's EEOICPA.*

Call today to talk to a benefits specialist to see if you may qualify!

971.801.0211

Learn more or request your free information kit at
NuclearCarePartners.com



...Federal judge springs 'Scabby the Rat'

From Page 3

Court's five-man GOP-named majority said, violates dissenting workers' free speech rights.

Trapping the rat, Garaufis said, violates union workers' free speech rights. "As a threshold matter, the court notes Local 79's peaceful use of stationary, inflatable rats and a cockroach to publicize a labor protest is protected by the First Amendment," Garaufis wrote.

Appealing his ruling "would raise serious constitutional con-

cerns" the judge warned the Board.

NLRB General Counsel Peter Robb, a Trumpite, has been leading the charge to try to ban the rat for interfering with business. That's no surprise. Robb first came to right-wing notice when, as a young Justice Department attorney, he wrote the legal justification for Ronald Reagan's firing of the Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) in 1981.

The NLRB had no immediate comment on the ruling.

**JCo Sport Where Fan Pride Never Takes a Day Off
Get Yours Today!**



www.jcosport.com
the only officially licensed tool apron