

In search of a real frontman

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT N1



TRAVEL M1

Foreign taste, US based



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GROCERY STORES KICK DISCOUNTS UP A NOTCH TO BRING IN SHOPPERS

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THE END OF RAKAN'S WAR

Life asked far too much of Rakan Hassan, the Iraqi boy brought to Boston in 2005 for treatment after a mistaken shooting by American troops. The next chapter of his story is hard to write.

KEVIN CULLEN



We were standing on a dusty road in Mosul, Iraq, Larry Roman said, and he had just left us. It was January 2009 and the boy named Rakan had driven away in an Iraq Army Humvee. It was the only time he was doing his when his life changed forever a year before, and so we stood there, with this odd mix of hope and expectation, and some goodbyes.

Rakan Hassan is 11 years old and playful. His parents killed, when

American soldiers pushed and opened fire on the battle was so it opened around them in the fading light of dusk. Rakan and other boys and their girlfriends in Boston had put Rakan back together, and I had watched the whole process, to write about it, and then we brought Rakan back to the war zone where he was nearly killed because that was what Rakan and his family wanted.

As we went, and the car driven by Rakan's brother-in-law disappeared into the dust, Larry Roman said he felt what I was feeling because he put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the eye, and said, "Don't worry. We'll see him again."

We never did. Rakan Hassan, the boy whose life

Larry Roman saved, the boy I sat with that day for five months, the boy who became my son's friend, the boy who looked at me and every body he met, was killed in June when a bomb exploded at his family's home in Mosul. He was 14 years old. Two of his sisters — an 18-year-old and a teenager — were injured in the attack but are expected to recover.

It happened June 16, but given the madness that is Iraq, it took us weeks to confirm. We got a death certificate the other day and so now we know for sure.

The information is like hoops to jump, shabby as they are. Through an interpreter, Rakan's brother-in-law and cousin, Nelson Roubi, all we can know is that Rakan, Page A14



Rakan Hassan flashes his famous smile during a physical therapy session in Boston in November 2005.

In the news

In the worst flare-up of Palestinian strife this year, nine people were killed in Hamas' rocket attack on Israel. Hamas' militants targeted Israel's border towns throughout. **World, A2.**

An MIT-trained Pakistani neuroscientist is in custody in Afghanistan, five years after disappearing amid accusations she belonged to al Qaeda and in Boston. **Nation, A16.**

With the chief suspect in the anthrax attacks dead, the Justice Department is expected to decide the next offender to close the case. **Nation, A16.**

President Bush's visit set off a wave of nostalgia in Korea's busiest port, with many saying they will miss the presidential hoopla. **City & Region, B2.**

Jellyfish are becoming more numerous and widespread, a concern of alarm for scientists that may signal the declining health of oceans. **World, A2.**



What if Michael Oakeshott had won the presidential election in 1900? The former governor and Charles P. Pierce imagine what the world would have been like. **Magazine.**

Magic represents a deeper store of knowledge about the human mind with easy lessons, some researchers are beginning to realize. **Mean, C1.**

POINT OF VIEW

By Michael Oakeshott

"That Patrick is right, it has to be those who believe equality does not require and of any state law, and that personal liberty should not be decided by ballot. To supporters of some say that, the Bay State is leading by example, showing, as Patrick said, that 'in Massachusetts, equal means equal.'" **Opinion, C9.**

The business was up and down, but it was a success.

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2008 OLYMPIC GAMES • BEIJING • AUG. 8-24



Fireworks exploded over Beijing's national stadium yesterday during a dress rehearsal of the opening ceremony.

For Chinese, much more than medals is at stake

Pride mixes with worry at being misunderstood

By Patricia Wen

BEIJING — It's a double-edged sword and less than 10 miles from the glitzy Olympic stadium, New York Times described it as a good Chinese nation, but also a slightly naive one when it comes to the Games begin this week.

It's worry? That the world will misunderstand his native land once again. The retired construction worker's smaller family has hoped to stay some of the towering structures that have dotted the city skyline. But with the nation's Beijing, 63, has cringed as historic neighborhoods were flattened by the risk to the new Chinese economy he believes "60 percent" of its changes have improved the lives of ordinary people, giving most of

REGIONS, Page A1



Wang Dan, 28, a store clerk, and Li Yang Xin, a shopkeeper, said business has been brisk heading into the Games.

Games a test for transformed athletic system

By Shira Springer

BEIJING — No Olympic host has been more focused on the success of the Games and its athletes than China. And the athletes understand that better than champion Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang, who says he's learned the "Yellow Peril."

Liu and other top Chinese athletes like NBA All-Star Yao Ming are the face of a strong, increasingly thriving nation ready to compete with the world's best in Beijing and beyond. Hoping to capitalize on the moment, China has changed its traditional, semi-amateur approach to building talent and training athletes in preparation for the Games, especially in sports where China has seldom excelled in past international competitions.

ATHLETE, Page A1

"They've been very challenging times, but I think that there has been motion forward."

CARDINAL SHAN P. O'MALLEY

O'Malley reflects, after 5 tumultuous years

By Michael Pevsner

Some bishops would have attended an anniversary celebration. Others would have held a public Mass. Cardinal Shan P. O'Malley skipped town, checked into a monastery, and prayed.

Five years after he was installed as the Roman Catholic archbishop of Boston, O'Malley reflects in quiet ways on the most unusual of public figures — the prince who dresses as the hermit. He recalls

that when he was up at night, the slipstream of his mind would be on the man, in his own inimitable way, tackled our crumbling problem after another, delivering the archdiocese from something close to fiscal to something close to stability.

He arrived in Boston on July 30, 2003, with a mission. In the first year he served as a bishop, a diocese thrived but while by long-term vision. But if the situations confronting the Fall River and Fall River dioceses had been going the

direction in Boston was vibrant. In fact, that was when Pope John Paul II asked him to move to Boston, O'Malley immediately sent a plan to the pope to consider.

"I dropped the phone ... it was like a skunk," O'Malley said in an interview Tuesday. "I did not like to consider, and it came back immediately with, no, this is what he really said to do."

O'Malley talked off the story of how

CARDINAL, Page A1

Fugitive arrested, girl safe in Baltimore

Police crafted ruse to snag Rockefeller

By Ryan Kest and Meghan Woodhouse

Authorities captured Clark Rockefeller in Baltimore yesterday and found his daughter safe inside an apartment nearby, ending an intense weeklong search that included reports of escape by boat to Penn or Bermuda and reports that the two had been spotted in Niagara in the Caribbean and in New Jersey.

Police found 7-year-old Felicia Starrow Mills Stone, whom Rockefeller is accused of kidnapping one week ago, in an apartment on Bay Street in Mount Vernon, a neighborhood of bricktown brownstones and row houses.

The first words were that she was very happy to see the police, FBI Special Agent Robert Glendon said in a news conference in Baltimore yesterday after the girl was arrested. The girl was a "little nervous" about being left alone, added police Deputy Superintendent Tim Lee.

Rockefeller's father, Robert Stone, was "overjoyed by this news," said the Commissioner of the State Police, who visited the press conference.

Lee said that when he and Glendon told him that his daughter had been found, he learned she had escaped into his arms. Telling the father that his 7-year-old girl was safe was "one of the best moments of my police career."

NEWS, Page A15

HIV more widespread than thought

Advances in blood tests, tracking boost numbers

By Stephen Smith

The AIDS epidemic has not a true end (with serious American health officials believe) federal disease trackers reported yesterday with the number of new infections since the late 1990s now thought to be 80 percent higher than earlier predictions.

The study, which the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had estimated that 40,000 Americans a year become infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, but advances in blood-testing methods combined with chain tracking of new cases allowed the health agency to determine that the actual figure is closer to 50,000 infections a year.

The revised estimate of HIV's toll in the United States has led some officials to re-evaluate speculation among AIDS specialists as

HIV, Page A6