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COLUMN ONE

Far apart under one roof

Something came between Chana and Simon Taub: a wall, ordered by a divorce judge, right through the three-story home neither will leave.

By Erika Hayasaki

Mew York

HANA Taub peered
through a narrow gap
in the recently built
sheetrock wall that
sliced her three-story
house in two. Straining to look
at what used to be her living
room, she worried that her husband was lurking on the other
side.

band was jurking on the other side.

"I can't be near him," she whispered, just in case he was exvestropping. "If I see him, I make he was exvestropping. "If I see him, I make he was exvestropping. "If I see him, I make he was he was to be a similar be a see he house to the other — both refused to give up the place they shared for it gyears. In one of New York's strangest divorce battles, a judge ordered construction of the wall to keep the quarreling couple apart while under the same roof.

The wall went up in December as neighbors gathered outside to watch. The sand-colored barrier on the first floor separates the living room from a spicate to he wall to see the durate of the wall to see the condition of the wall to do not see the was a locked glass and mahogany door that has been barricaded with plywood.

Chana, 57, got the garage, front door, spiral staircase, three bathrooms, second-floor kitchen, four bedrooms and a nursery on the third floor.

That left Simon, 58, with a side entrance into the first-floor living room and bathroom, along with a second-floor dining room, which he could only access by walking up his neighbor's stairs outside, climbing over a railing on his bad own. To his wife's through a window. To his wife's through a window.



WRONGLY CONVICTED MAN IS RELEASED

Joyce Boney is overcome with emotion as she embraces her son Timothy Atkins, who was released from L.A. County Jail on Friday. A judge overturned his 1987 murder conviction a day earlier after a key prosecution witness recanted her testimony. CALIFORNIA, B1

A tall, elusive Russian and a cup of poison tea

Alexander Litvinenko's expatriate friends have pieced together their own picture of how the former spy was killed.

By Kim Murphy and Sebastian Rotella Times Staff Writers

LONDON — Yuri Felshtinsky well remembers when he spent the better part of five hours pleading for the life of his friend Alexander Litvinenko.

tvinenko. It was May 22, 2000. Litvinen-

ko, a colonel in the Russian Fed-eral Security Service, or FSB, had just spent four months in prison, having gone public with allegations that senior secret po-lice officers were involved in kill-ings and kidnappings for finan-cial cain.

ings and kidnappings for financial gain.
Now he was free, but for how long? Pelshtinsky called up Lit-vinenko's former boss, Maj. Gen. Yevgeny Khokholkov, and agreed to meet him for dinner at a small perstaurant near Moscow's old Unchokholkov owned the restaurant and ordered it closed for the night so the two men could talk privately. We were sitting there for five hours, from 7:30 to

INGLEWOOD

POLICE TARGET

OF SEX INOUIRY

looking into allegations

of massage parlor visits.

The department is

12:30, discussing the fate of Lit-vinenko. It was a nice, profes-sional conversation. I think it was a very house talk." Felishtin-sky recalled in a recent interview. "But the general explained to me, and the state of the par-doned... If went against the system. He committed treason. And he was going to be purished for this."

for this."
"At one point, he said, 'If I ever see him in my doorway, I will kill him with my own hands.' And he put his two hands together as if he was smashing the neck, as if it was a piece of pipe, or a baguette.

And then he just said, 'Tm jok[See Poison, Page A7]

NFW TROOPS DON'T YIFI D **RESULTS YET** IN BAGHDAD

Gates hopes to speed the influx of forces. But a senior official says that may be impossible.

IRAOIS GROWING IMPATIENT

By Louise Roug

BAGHDAD — A month after the Bush administration announced a "surge" in troops for Baghdad, Iraqis are still waiting for any-thing to change. Fewer than 20% of the additional Iraqia and American troops have arrived so far. And the roughly 5,000 that have arrived have yet to make a visible impact in this sprawling city of 6 million people, where thousands of paramilitary gunnen patrol the streets.

U.S. Officials are trying to

paraminary guinnen patroi tare streets.

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streets.

and ge expectations both domestically and in Iraq, continually asserting that the new forces will slowly take up positions in the capital over the coming months.

But after one of the bloodiest weeks since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003, Iraqis are increasingly impattent. A series of high-profile attacks on both civilians and security forces killed more than 1,000 Iraqis and at least 33 U.S.

troops in the first nine days of the control of th

At least six current or former Inglewood police officers are under investigation for allegedly having sex with female em officers are under the stage of the stag

Vietnamese voters at epicenter of O.C. political earthquake

By Christian Berthelsen and Dave McKibben

The two Republicans named Nguyen entered the race for a seat on the Orange Country Board of Supervisors as blips on the establishment's screen: He an obscure school board member, she a neophyte council-woman.

woman.

Against them stood candidates anointed by the Republican and Democratic machines—as well as the wisdom that in immigrant-rich central Orange County, party loyalties won elections

tions.

When the votes for the 1st
District race were tallied this
week, the Nguyens, who are not
related, had easily eclipsed the
two favorites by shrewdly courting ethnic loyalties and the ab-



VICTOR: Trung Nguyen eked out a seven-vote will for supervisor in Orange County in a four-way race.

Between them, the two bitter rivals won nearly half of the 46,000 votes cast in the Tuesday special election, with Trung Nguen by just seven ballots. She has asked for a recount. But whoever prevalls will be Orange County's pervisor, demonstrating the pervisor, demonstrating the emergence of Vietnamese political power.

pervison,
emergence of Vietnamese positional
cal power.

There was a major political
earthquake in central Orange
county this week, said Assemcounty this week, said Assemcounty this week, said Assemformed, who became California's
highest-ranking. Vietnames
American official when he was
elected to the Legislature two
waars ago.

years ago.
The strong showing by two Viorange County as an all-white, wealthy, image-conscious com-[See Vietnamese, Page A16]



RUNNER-UP: Janet Nguyen seeks a recount. The two candidates won nearly half the votes cast.

Inside Today's Times



Youths caught in immigration net

An austere detention center for illegal immigrants in Texas is a pillar of the U.S. crackdown, but more than half of its inmates are minors. NATION, A13

Sex-offender limits are not retroactive

A federal judge's decision means thousands might not be barred from living near schools and parks.

Examining the Anna Nicole Smith case

An autopsy shows no signs of a violent death. Tim Rutten looks at how she became big news. NATION, A9; CALENDAR, E1

The wine barrels are brimming

Two bumper harvests in a row leave wineries flush, which may mean cheaper prices. BUSINESS, C1

Weather: Rain likely through tonight. L.A.
Downtown: 64/53. Page B16
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Harvard ready to make history, loud and clear

A woman is poised to succeed a president who fueled a gender debate.

By RICHARD C. PADDOCK and REBECCA TROUNSON Times Staff Writers

Harvard University is set to name the first female president in its 3T-year history to succeed Lawrence H. Summers, the former Harvard head who contributed to his own downfall by questioning the ability of women to master science. Drew Gliplin Faust, a Civil War historian and dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, is expected to be named Sunday as Harvard's

28th president.

Faust, 59, was praised Friday by friends and associates as an emiment scholar and a dynamic yet soft-spoken leader with a highly effective personal management style.

The appointment process is highly secretive, and Alan Stone, highly secretive, and Alan Stone, highly secretive, and Alan Stone. It is a fairly, said he could not confirm that Faust was selected. The Harvard Crimson, the student newspaper, reported Friday that the university's 30-member Board of Overseers would meet Sunday to affirm her selection.

Faust's appointment would be a breakthrough for an institution that did not have a single fearing member in 1970 and did not abolish quotas restricting the number of female stuting the mumber of female stuting the manner of female stuting the mumber of female stut

Children detained for security's sake

Many underage illegal immigrants are being held alongside parents in prisonlike facilities and conditions.

THE NATION

TAYLOR, TEXAS — Khadijah Bessuges is confined by metal gates and razor wire. She eyar rad uniform. She sheeps in an 8-by-15 cell, and stands by her cot four times a day when the guards count heads. She has only two times are shown to be considered to be the confined to the confined to

egally.
"It's not a good place for peo-e," Khadijah said in a recent lephone interview. "People

pie Kindiglah said in a repected per lei Kindiglah said in a repected per lei Kindiglah said in a repected per set sad, surd hey don't want to be here. They want to be with their families."

Hutto, which opened in May 2006, is a pillar of the Bush administrations effort to crack down on illegal immigrants and detain them until their appeals can be heard. It holds detainess who cannot easily be sent home, as Mexicans can. Hutto has families from 29 countries, most from South America.

The center is touted by the Homeland Security Department as a major schievement, and may be a model for future facilities. Hutto also illustrates the administration's bind as its pur with the reality that many illegal immigrants are minors.

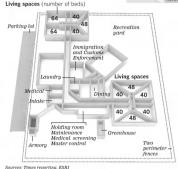
On Friday a majority of Hut-

with the reanty that many megal immigrants are minors. On Friday, a majority of Hut-to's 383 immates were children. Immigrant advocates and hu-man rights groups ask why Kha-dijah and the others are jailed for

dijah and the others are jailed for their parents' actions. "Children being in jail with their parents is what is morally and ethically wrong with this pic-ture," said attorney Frances Vai-dez of the University of Texas Immigration Law Clinic, who

The Immigration and Customs Enforce ment agency handles more than 200,000 detainees a year at 300 locations, many in family facilities. The T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility in Taylor, Texas, is a temporary home to 383 detainees, more than half of them children.





LORENA IÑIGUEZ Los Angeles Times

has clients at Hutto.

A former prison northeast of Austin, Hutto is run by a forprofit company with a controversial record. And though the facility is meant for detention measured in days, many immigrants are detained for months.

The average stay is about 55 days for asylum seekers, 40 for others, officials said.
The longest any family has stayed is 205 days. At Immigration and Customs Enforcement's other family facility, in Pennsylvania, the average stay is 50 days, activists say.
Attorneys say children at Hutto lose weight because of substandard food and suffer from untreated medical problems. Adults and children are given an hour of recreation a day, and chances to venture outdoors and chances to venture outdoors

and chances to venture outdoors are rare.

The adults may be seeking asylum or may have been charged with violating immigra-tion laws, like Khadijah's father. They have not been charged with

contex a Isiouza. Los Angeles Times other crimes. Sebastien Bessuges, 30, a Frenchman who last year married an American, was arrested for overstaying his visa; Khadijah, a French and Mexican citizen from a previous marriage, had overstayed her visa too. Immigrants make up the fast-est-growing group of people incarcerated in the U.S., according to the American Bar Assn. The immigration agency holds more than 200,000 people over the ocurse of a year at more than 300 sites. The second of the course of a year at more than 400 sites. The course of a year at more than 400 sites. The second of the course of a year at more than 500 sites. The second of the course of a year at more than 500 sites. The second of the course of a year at more than 500 sites. The second of the course of a year at more than 500 sites. The second of the course of a year at more than 500 sites. The second of the course of the women's commission for Refuge Women's Commission for Refuge

and Children. "That's just one of our concerns." Immigration officials have asked Brane's group and others to discuss creating standards for family detention. Congress did not have Hutto in mind when it directed Home-

WOULD NEVER LEAVE HER': Sehastien Bessuges with

Khadijah, right, and their American family. The father and daughter had to go to Texas or be split up.

land Security in 2005 and 2006 to stop separating families and house them in nonpenal, home-like environments. It suggested methods such as electronic monitoring, which is being tested in eight cities. Advocates for immigrants point to a San Diese for the control of the contr

In November 2005, Homeland Security officials announced the Secure Border Initiative, an effort to end illegal border crossings. Secretary Michael Chertoff had identified families as a particular problem because the department lacked facilities to detucine the control of the

to's academic programs from an hour a day to four, and plans to introduce a curriculum based on Texas standards.

Last week, immates staged a hunger strike to protest the food and other conditions. Sebastical Bessuges said Khadijah had lost 4 pounds at Hutto.

Homeland Security officials countered Friday with a study showing that 81% of Hutto detainees gained weight during their stay.

Advocates and attorneys con-

tainees gained weight during their stay.
Advocates and attorneys concerned about the facility say the medical care is insufficient and there is no pediatrician.
Lawyer Griselda Ponce said one client's untreated leg injury eventually required emergency surgery, and a 4-year-old girl's lips cracked and bled before medical staff would respond to her mother's requests for balm. Children and parents can blow off steam an hour a day in a gym. The rest of the time, they are kept in pods of several cells. Some locks are disengaged, then armed at night with lasers and alarms.

Some bucas with a sers and alarms.

Bessuges said Khadijah had quarreled with other children and guards had told him he must hold her in check or damage his chances of avoiding deportation. "Festerday, I... found out she was removed from school in Arizona because of all the time shes" missed, he said, his voice quieting.

ing.
"But I can't tell her that. That
would break her heart."

would break her heart."

Bessuges had visited a federal
immigration center last month
to see what forms he needed to
extend his stay in the U.S. The
next day, immigration agents
raided his suburban Phoenix
home and detained him and

next day, immigration agenia, raided his suburban Phoenix home and detained him and Khadijah. The following day, Bessuges said, immigration officials gave him a choice: He and his daugher could stay in Arizona in separate detention centers, or they could board a plane for the Texas detention center and be together. "It would never leave her." Bessuges said. "It's fine to make me pay for the mistakes I have made, But ... no child deserves this."

nicole.gaouette@latimes.com miguel.bustillo@latimes.com Gaouette reported from Washington and Bustillo from Texas.

Officers under investigation

[Inglewood, from Page AI] had the names of customers and the amounts they paid except when the customers were police officers. In those cases the women allegedly entered a symbol.

women allegedly entered a symbowner allegedly entered a symbowner allegedly entered a symbowner and the symbol entered that it was investigating two inglewood police officers in the alleged rape of a woman they stopped on suspicion of prostitution. The woman's attorney said this week that he has filed a claim against the city and is awaiting an answer from authorities on whether the two officers have been applied to the symbol entered the symbol

of misconduct.

Numerous law enforcement
officials and city leaders said the
Inglewood Police Department's
internal affairs unit will ultimately recommend whether any
officers should face criminal
charges.

merrial adars unt will understand the programment whether any officers should face criminal officers should face criminal. To date, sources say, none of the officers has been fired, though some have retired or left the city for other departments. The internal affairs investigation began more than a year ago when several Inglewood massage parlors and tanning salons were the focus of federal allegations of money laundering and prostitution. To date, 18 people have pleaded guilty in that investigation, and four others — including the alleged owner of the brothets, Kimberly Mao — are awatting trial.

The federal charges and hay to be federal charges and hay to repeatedly denied involvement in prostitution or money laundering.

But last week, in a group in-

demanding sexual services.

The women, who denied they were prostitutes, recalled several specific incidents, including one specific incidents, including one of the control of the contro

law."

Inglewood interim Police
Chief J. I. Davis, who took over
the department after the investigation was underway, would only
say that his agency was actively
pursuing a "difficult and sensitive "inquiry.
Inglewood, a working-class
city of 112,000, has long struggled
with prostitution problems. Because of its proximity to Los Angeles International Airport, Inglewood has numerous hotels

lining its main commercial streets.

lining its main commercial streets.

The investigation comes as the department, the seventh-largest police agency in the county, struggles to fill two dozen vacancies in its 213-officer force. At a town hall meeting Thursday night, police commanders said they were doing everything possible to fill the positions, and many citizens applauded the efforce on increase the size of the torce.

During the meeting, police of

forts to increase the size of the force.

During the meeting, police of-ficials said a top priority has been to combat prostitution in the city by dramatically reducing the number of massage parlors that could serve as fronts for sexual encounters. Since 2004, the department's efforts have cut department's efforts have cut to the control of the internal investigation. Since that investigation began, Inglewood police as well as the FBI have begun a separate inquiry into the alleged rape of a Florida woman who was stopped by two patrol officers on suspicion of prostitution. In that incident, which is also

ion of prostitution.

In that incident, which is also nder investigation by the Los ngeles County district attorunder investigation by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, a 23-year-old woman alleged that the officers confronted her on Century Boulevard on a Sunday night as she left her hotel to have dinner at a fast-food restaurant. The thoroughtare has pockets that the configuration of the config

a streetwelker.
At the hotel, according to her attorney, the night manager verified that the woman was from Florida and a registered guest at the hotel. But one officer insisted that she take him to her room while the other officer waited by the patrol car, attorney Dylan Pollard said. It was there, the woman has said, that she was raped.

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