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## The blame game

South Sound readers weigh in on who gets the blame for Seattle losing the Sonics — **SPORTS, D1**



## ALSO IN SPORTS Get revved up for local racing column



# Alleged Tumwater brothel busted

## Suspected madam, 4 sex workers arrested in sting



Tumwater police say a brothel was operating out of one of the bottom-floor apartments in the H Building of Capitol Heights Apartments, just south of U.S. Highway 101 on Mottman Road.

BY JEREMY PAWLOSKI  
THE OLYMPIAN

TUMWATER — When an undercover police officer visited a suspected brothel at Capitol Heights Apartments on Mottman Road, a woman answered the door in lingerie, escorted him to a bedroom and brought in three women for him to choose from, court records state.

Tumwater police raided the suspected brothel Wednesday, arresting five women ages 19 to 34, after two of the women agreed to have

intercourse and perform other sex acts with the officer in exchange for \$440, court papers state. Suspected madam Ramona Person, 34, of Shelton was arrested on suspicion of a possible felony charge of leading organized crime. Tumwater detective Jon Kolb said the charge will be forwarded to the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Leading organized crime is a Class A felony, punishable by up to life in prison and a \$200,000 fine.

The prostitution-related charges the other four women face are mis-

demeanors, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Person advertised her brothel, "Sinnsations4u, a.k.a. Miss Kitty's," at thereviewsboard.net, which lists escort services, and at classifieds site craigs list.org, according to court papers. She kept the majority of the money her prostitutes made, court papers state.

Three women were arrested on suspicion of prostitution: Holly Kalls, 22, of Olympia; Reya Smith, 23, of Fort Lewis; and Adrienne Krieg, 19, of Olympia. Heather Whitney, 27, of Olympia — the woman who police

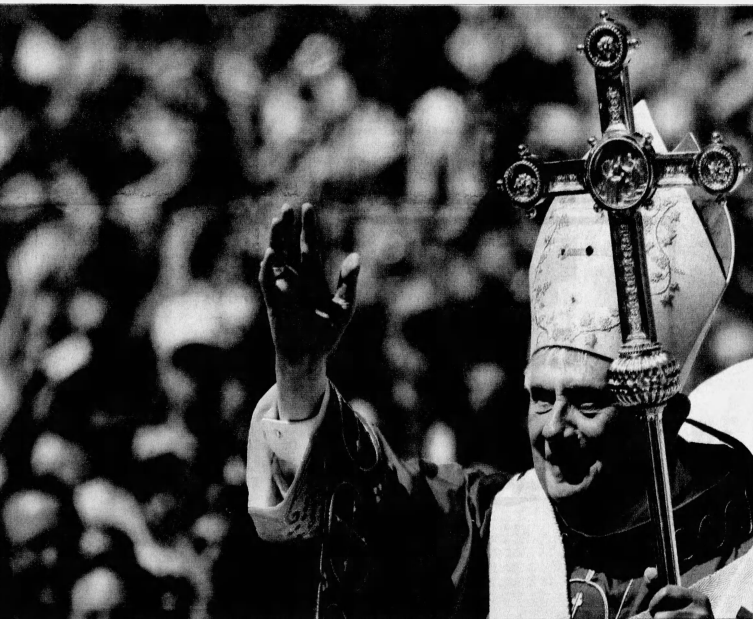
say answered the door wearing lingerie — was arrested on suspicion of promoting prostitution. Police think the brothel has been operating out of the apartments, off Interstate 5, since at least September.

During the four-month investigation, Tumwater police, with the assistance of the Washington State Patrol, conducted video surveillance of men going in and out of the apartment for short periods, court papers state.

See **BROTHEL**, Page A2

# Pope hears from priests' victims

INSIDE: Saint Martin's president meets with pontiff in Washington, D.C. **A2**



Associated Press photos

Pope Benedict XVI reacts to the crowd at the conclusion of an open Mass on Thursday at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C.

BY IAN FISHER  
AND LAURIE GOODSTEIN  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI came face to face with a scandal that has left lasting wounds on the U.S. church Thursday, holding a surprise meeting with several victims of sexual abuse by priests in the Boston area.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, who organized the meeting and attended, gave the pope a notebook listing 1,000 boys and girls who were abused in the Boston archdiocese going back several decades, a Vatican official said.

The pope had requested the meeting, said the official, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, which took place at the papal nuncio's residence. The handful of victims were of middle age. The pope prayed and spoke personally with each of them, in a meeting that lasted about 25 minutes. Some wept, Lombardi said.

"It was a moving experience," O'Malley told reporters afterward. "It was very pos-

itive and very prayerful."

The meeting made clear that for all the messages that Benedict wished to send during his five-day trip to the United States, his first as pope, the one concerning priestly abuse was most central. He raised the issue first with reporters on his trip from Rome on Tuesday, and did so for a third time Thursday morning during a huge open Mass at Nationals Park before nearly 50,000 people, his first major encounter with America's diverse church.

"No words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse," the pope said in his homily. "It is important that those who have suffered be given loving pastoral attention."

Three of the survivors, speaking on CNN on Thursday night, reacted positively to the meeting.

One of them, Bernie McDevitt, said he wished the meeting with the pope had happened sooner, but that he felt afterward that the victims would get "not just words but action."

See **POPE**, Page A2



Gabriela Segura, 20, of New York and others cheer for Pope Benedict XVI as he drives past The Catholic University of America in his Popemobile. Saint Martin's University president Douglas Astolph was among leaders of Catholic institutions who met with the pope Thursday at the Catholic University.

# Causes of rising fuel prices ID'd

## Demand, oil cost, not price fixing the sources, says attorney general

BY JIM SZYMANSKI  
THE OLYMPIAN

On a day when Olympia-area prices for regular gasoline set yet another record, the state Attorney General's Office reported Thursday that such price increases were the result of crude oil costs and increased demand, not price manipulation by oil companies. The Attorney General's Office just completed a year-long investigation of gasoline prices from 2000 to this year.

Olympia-area prices for regular unleaded gasoline reached a record \$3.60 a gallon Thursday; the record for diesel fuel was set the day before at \$4.34 a gallon, AAA-Washington reported. A year ago regular unleaded sold for \$3.13 a gallon while diesel was \$3.05, according to AAA.

Each northwest driver reduced the amount of gasoline purchased in an average week by about a gallon from 1999 through last year, a study by a Seattle think tank reported Thursday.

See **FULE PRICES**, Page A3

# Flu season was worst in 4 years

THE OLYMPIAN, NEWS SERVICES

The flu season was the worst in four years nationwide, partly because the vaccine didn't work well against the viruses that made most people sick, health officials said Thursday.

"This season's vaccine was the worst match since 1997-98, when the vaccine didn't work at all against the circulating virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

"Every year, the best scientific minds get together to predict the viruses that we are likely to see in the next flu season. Most of the time, the predictions are right on but sometimes, there is a great mismatch. That is what happened this year," Thurston County health officer Dr. Diana Yu said.

Dr. Dan Jernigan, deputy director of the CDC's influenza division, noted that some people might lose faith in the flu vaccine and skip it next year. But he noted even this year's mismatched vaccine still offered 44 percent protection overall and likely reduced the severity of illness in those who got the flu.

See **FLU**, Page A2

ON THE WEB

Read the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's report that includes flu statistics at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr).

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### SOUTH SOUND

## Cookie-cutter housing on Lacey agenda

The Lacey City Council moved closer Thursday to changing design and development rules to prevent new cookie-cutter neighborhoods. **B1**

## Volunteers don crazy hats to celebrate event

More than 200 South Sound volunteers took part in a recognition event Thursday at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. During the event, which had the theme "Hats Off to Volunteers," volunteers were credited with saving the county more than \$2 million a year with unpaid labor. **B1**

## what's new at theolympian.com

### Getting oriented

South Sound native and Fulbright Scholar Novella Elm checks in from China in a new Olympian blog from Beijing. See what she's up to at [www.theolympian.com/beijing](http://www.theolympian.com/beijing).

### Ask the editors

Have questions, comments or complaints about The Olympian? Air them at [www.theolympian.com/asktheeditors](http://www.theolympian.com/asktheeditors).

# Astolfi: Pope's speech 'encouraging'

BY DIANE HUBER  
THE OLYMPIAN

After seeing Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday in Washington, D.C., at Saint Martin's University President Douglas Astolfi called the experience uplifting and encouraging.

Astolfi joined leaders from more than 300 U.S. Catholic colleges and universities for an invitation-only address by the pope during his six-day visit to the United States. Astolfi also at-

tended a public Mass with about 46,000 people and took part in an exclusive address with 22 educators.

"It was much more than any of us in the media or education community had expected, and it was truly a gratifying speech by the pope," Astolfi said.

The pope urged educators to remember their obligation to social justice, Astolfi said. He also said faith doesn't have to be at odds with reason and academic freedom.

"At one point, the pope stated specifically that Catholic educators must follow every idea, every research agenda where it leads them, but as Catholics, we need to be cognizant of what our faith teaches us as we follow those lines of inquiry," he said. "It was a very encouraging message."

The pope arrived for the address at The Catholic University of America with an entourage of 36 cars, Astolfi said. The 8-year-old's presence was impressive

and commanding, the university president said.

Astolfi also saw the Dalai Lama on Monday in Seattle.

Both of these men understand the need for all of us to put aside heavy differences ... and work together to find ways to bring peace and justice in this world," he said.

Diane Huber covers education for The Olympian. She can be reached at 360-357-0204 or dhuber@theolympian.com.

## POPE

Continued from Page One

The surprise meeting far overshadowed the rest of the pope's schedule, the third day of his trip to the United States and a day before he leaves for New York to address the United Nations.

But he also gave a substantial address to Catholic educators, many of whom have been struggling with missions of money, managing ministries and conflicts over whether Catholic schools are Catholic

enough. He spoke to about 200 college presidents and the superintendents of Catholic schools in the nation's 195 dioceses.

At a time when many dioceses are closing down parochial schools for K-12 students, Benedict stressed the importance of keeping them open, especially to serve immigrants and the underprivileged. He also used the occasion to clarify limits, saying that although academic freedom is valuable, it must not be used to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the Church."

For years, victims of abuse in the United States had beseeched the Vatican for a meeting with the pope, first asking John Paul II, who died in 2005, and finally, six years after the outbreak of the scandal, one was granted. The scandal affected nearly every diocese in the United States, revealed more than 5,000 abusive priests and more than 13,000 victims and has cost the church more than \$2 billion in settlements and legal fees. It also has cost the church trust and respect, both of which the pope is clearly intent on restoring.

But reaction from victims and their advocates varied, with some praising the meeting as an important step and others saying that still it was not enough.

"This is a small, long-overdue step forward on a very long road," Joske Cretsch, southwestern regional director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said in a statement. "We're confident the meeting was meaningful for the participants and we're grateful that these victims have had the courage to come forward and speak up."

## BROTHEL

Continued from Page One

On Wednesday, one of the men cooperated after he was stopped and identified by officers; he has yet to be cited or charged, Kolb said. She said it is "up in the air" whether any of the "johns" shown in police video will face charges, and the investigation is continuing.

Kolb estimated that as many as four customers visited the brothel each day on weekdays. It was typically not open on weekends, she said.

The customers were not included in any public figures, such as lawmakers or elected officials, Kolb said, adding that some are "what some would describe as unproductive members of the community."

Shannon Young, a mother of two who lives at the apartments, said the suspected brothel had an unusual amount of traffic, but she assumed partying college students lived there.

Young said the young women she thought were living there were "beautiful — absolutely gorgeous." They also dressed well, she said.

"They weren't what I would consider hookers on the street," she said.

Kolb said no one lived at the suspected brothel.

The officer who visited the brothel Wednesday is from another agency and was recruited to help with the investigation, she said.

According to court papers, the officer was ordered to "expose himself to the females" during his visit, "as they thought it meant he was a legitimate customer." Court records do not say whether the officer exposed himself.

The officer put the \$400 on the

bed after agreeing on a price, and after Whitney took the money, he told her he had changed his mind, court papers state.

Person was arrested a short time later after she left the apartment. Police then executed a search warrant and arrested the other women.

To make an arrest in a prostitution sting, "they have to offer their services and you have to get an agreement on what services they are providing," Kolb said.

The john who was intercepted leaving the apartment said he had been there to pay for sex on four occasions.

After police executed the search warrant, "Smith and Ralls reported (that) all the females in

the apartment provide sex for money, as well as companionship and other services," court papers state. "The girls do not get to keep all the money as the majority of it goes to Person (Miss Kitty)."

Ralls and Smith were cited at the scene Wednesday and released. Whitney and Kriez were booked into the Thurston County jail and released. Person was arrested and taken to the police station, but she was not booked into jail because of a medical condition, Kolb said.

Young said it was scary to see a brothel busted in her complex, especially given that her 8-year-old daughter plays on a playground

"That's definitely the last thing I thought would be around here," Young said.

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## FLU

Continued from Page One

"Some people may feel that this is a good enough reason not to get the flu vaccine. On the contrary, imagine how many more deaths we would have had if everyone was unvaccinated," Yu said. "The flu vaccine is one part of our defense against influenza, decreasing exposure by washing hands and minimizing spread by covering your cough, and other ways to keep influenza away."

The 2007-08 season started slowly, peaked in mid-February and is expected to be declining, but though cases are still being reported, CDC officials said. Based on adult deaths from flu and pneumonia, this season is the most severe since 2003-04, another time when the vaccine did not include the exact flu strain responsible for most illnesses.

Each year, health officials — ranging essentially an educated guess — formulate a vaccine against three viruses they think will be circulating. They guess well most of the time, and the vaccine is often effective 70 percent and 90 percent effective.

"If we look at the recent history of vaccine effectiveness, the predictions have come pretty close most years," Yu said. "But this year, two of the three strains were not good matches, and the vaccine was only 44 percent effective, according to a study done in Marshfield, Wis. That seemed to match the experience in other parts of the country."

"We've had a pretty heavy season, both adult and pediatric. And there were a good number of us — more than usual — who had received a vaccination," said Dr. Niranjana Bhat, a children's infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

The CDC compares flu seasons by looking at adult deaths from the flu or pneumonia in 122 cities. This year, those deaths peaked at 9 percent of all reported deaths in early March, and remained above an epidemic threshold for 13 consecutive weeks. In 2003-04, they peaked at more than 10 percent of all deaths, and surpassed the epidemic threshold for nine weeks.

"Our season is not quite as high but is lasting a little longer," Jernigan said. Pediatric deaths are another way flu seasons are compared. So far this season, 66 children died, including 46 who were not vaccinated. In 2003-04, 183 children died.

Yu said any number of children dying from flu is unacceptable because shots are especially effective for youths.

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# Yakima diocese fights stigma of misconduct

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YAKIMA — As Pope Benedict XVI visits the United States aiming to heal the wounds of the clergy sex abuse crisis, a rural Roman Catholic diocese in the Northwest faces new allegations that its bishop has covered up sexual misconduct by priests and employees.

The charges have largely escaped notice outside of Yakima, but critics contend the revelations reflect systemic secrecy in a diocese that has been a springboard for leaders in the U.S. Catholic church. Church leaders, meanwhile, have apologized but said that incidents were not covered up, even if they were not publicized.

"It's not all lockstep. You have each individual bishop answering to Rome and each one is running their own ship. And they're all going to interpret things their own way, and some are going to be more proactive than others," said Thomas Plante, professor of psychology at Santa Clara University and author of several books on clergy abuse issues.

Founded in 1951, the Yakima diocese serves a sprawling seven-county area in central Washington, stretching from the Cascade Mountains east to rolling fruit orchards, wine grape vineyards, and fields of hops, potatoes and wheat. Parishioners include longstanding farm families and recent immigrants who've moved to the area for farm work.

The diocese has been a training ground for well-respected leaders in the church. Former bishops include Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, and Spokane Bishop William Skylstad. George recently succeeded Skylstad as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Yakima is sandwiched between two of the six dioceses that have declared bankruptcy as a result of

sex abuse lawsuits: Portland and Spokane. Yakima has paid about \$125 million to resolve sex abuse claims involving seven priests, some of which date back decades.

But more recent allegations are troubling church critics now. In 2003, Bishop Carlos Sevilla hired a retreat employee known to be under investigation of viewing child pornography while he was a seminarian in Mount Angel, Ore. The man, arrested near Yakima last month on a fugitive warrant issued in 2005, now awaits an extradition hearing on four charges of encouraging child sex abuse.

The diocese announced his arrest April 1. Sevilla said he hired the man because he viewed the incident as an isolated episode and because the job involved administrative work. He has since apologized for the "serious failure in good judgment."

Also in 2003, a priest in north-eastern Oregon pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a teenage girl and was deported to his home country of Colombia. Before transferring to Oregon, he had served in the Yakima diocese from May 2000 to February 2003.

Parishioners in Washington and Oregon were not notified about that case. A national victims' support group revealed the news April 10 in a letter urging Sevilla to skip the papal festivities "as penance." Sevilla said he didn't hide the conviction, but perhaps should have publicized it.

Parishioners have either come out in support of Sevilla or kept largely silent, but victims' groups have been quick to criticize.

"Recent events in Yakima are very much in line with what we're seeing happening elsewhere, only more egregious and more clearly documented," said David Colness, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP, which sent Sevilla the letter.

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