

# Sunday Life



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## FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

"She was the people's princess and that's how she will stay, how she will remain, in our hearts and in our memories forever."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, on Princess Diana, who died in a car crash in Paris along with her companion Dodi Fayed and their chauffeur.



"It would appear that every proprietor and every editor of any publication that has paid for intrusive and exploitative photographs of her, encouraging greedy and ruthless individuals to risk everything in pursuit of Diana's image, has blood on his hands today."

Charles Spencer, brother of Princess Diana.

"The Hamas organizations are there. The headquarters are there. The infrastructure is there. The explosives are there."

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, blaming Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority for failing to crack down on militants in self-rule areas after a suicide bombing in Jerusalem killed at least eight people, including the three bombers.

"We won't have a real idea of what we are dealing with until all the material is removed. There is no real idea of how far the hole goes down there."

Joseph Cruz, a human rights field worker who is among a group of U.N. officials monitoring the excavation of one of the largest mass graves yet discovered in Bosnia or neighboring Croatia. Up to 300 bodies, mostly Muslim war victims, were believed buried in a labyrinthine cave near the northwestern Bosnian village of Hrgar.

"It's hard to name a growth industry in the world that California doesn't have a strong position in. The question should no longer be can California manage the recession, but can California manage the growth?"

Economic analyst Stephen Levy, director of the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto, on the recent series of upbeat reports on the state of the California economy.

## SOCIAL CUSTOMS

# Barking mad at animal abuse

Police indifference to acts of barbaric cruelty against animals in Japan shows the need for stricter legal protection of animals, while activists say the public also needs to be taught about responsible care of pets.

By ROY K. AKAGAWA  
 Asahi Evening News

**T**he horrific Kobe case of the murder of two young children has spotlighted the lack of concern in Japan for treatment of animals.

Reports that the 15-year-old murder suspect, a junior high school student arrested in late June, cut out the tongues of cats among other cruel acts against animals, prompted Elizabeth Oliver of Osaka to write a letter to the Asahi Evening News, appealing for a stricter law to protect animals against abuse.

Oliver is the director of Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK), an animal shelter in a rural part of Osaka Prefecture that is close to the borders of Kyoto and Hyogo prefectures. ARK was last in the news after the Great Hanshin Earthquake, when it found itself taking care of close to 600 animals, mostly pets that had nowhere to go when their owners were forced into temporary accommodation.

Oliver, a British citizen who has lived in Japan now for almost 30 years, voices a criticism commonly heard among animal welfare advocates in Japan about the current Law for the Protection and Control

that taking action against animal cruelty might stem more violent acts against humans.

Shimizu said the group was hopeful that debate on amending the animal protection law could begin as soon as the next extraordinary session of the Diet convenes, expected later this month.

In addition to spelling out concrete examples of cruelty in a revision of the animal protection law, the Citizens Conference also advocates the licensing of animal vendors as well as stricter penalties for acts of cruelty.

Under the current provisions, the maximum penalty for an act of cruelty against an animal is only 30,000 yen. Animal welfare advocates say that the low figure dissuades police from actively seeking out perpetrators of cruelty against animals.

Tomomi Hagiwara of the Japan Anti-Vivisection Association (JAVA) cited the case in February of a cat in Tomakomai, Hokkaido that was apparently set on fire with either gasoline or kerosene. Family members found the burning cat and took it to a veterinarian, but with about 70 percent of the cat's skin burned, the animal died within a week.

