

VIOLENT CRIME
Alaska's rape rate is highest in the nation
ALASKA

TLINGIT MACBETH
Perseverance Theatre to perform Shakespeare
LIFE

\$20.05 AN HOUR
Anchorage workers exceed national average
MONEY

WEATHER
Clouds hang out
High 40; low 28

50 cents Final Edition

Anchorage Daily News

Thursday, October 28, 2004 ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER www.adn.com

Forces battle Ramadi uprising

■ **ASSASSINATIONS:** Violence has halted reconstruction.

By **EDWARD WONG**
The New York Times

RAMADI, Iraq — The U.S. military and the interim Iraqi government are quickly losing control of this provincial capital, which is larger and strategically more important than its sister city of Fallujah, say local officials, clerics, tribal sheiks and officers with the U.S. Marines.

"The city is chaotic," said Sheik Ali al-Dulaimi, a leader of the region's largest tribe. "There's no presence of the Alawi government," he added, speaking of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

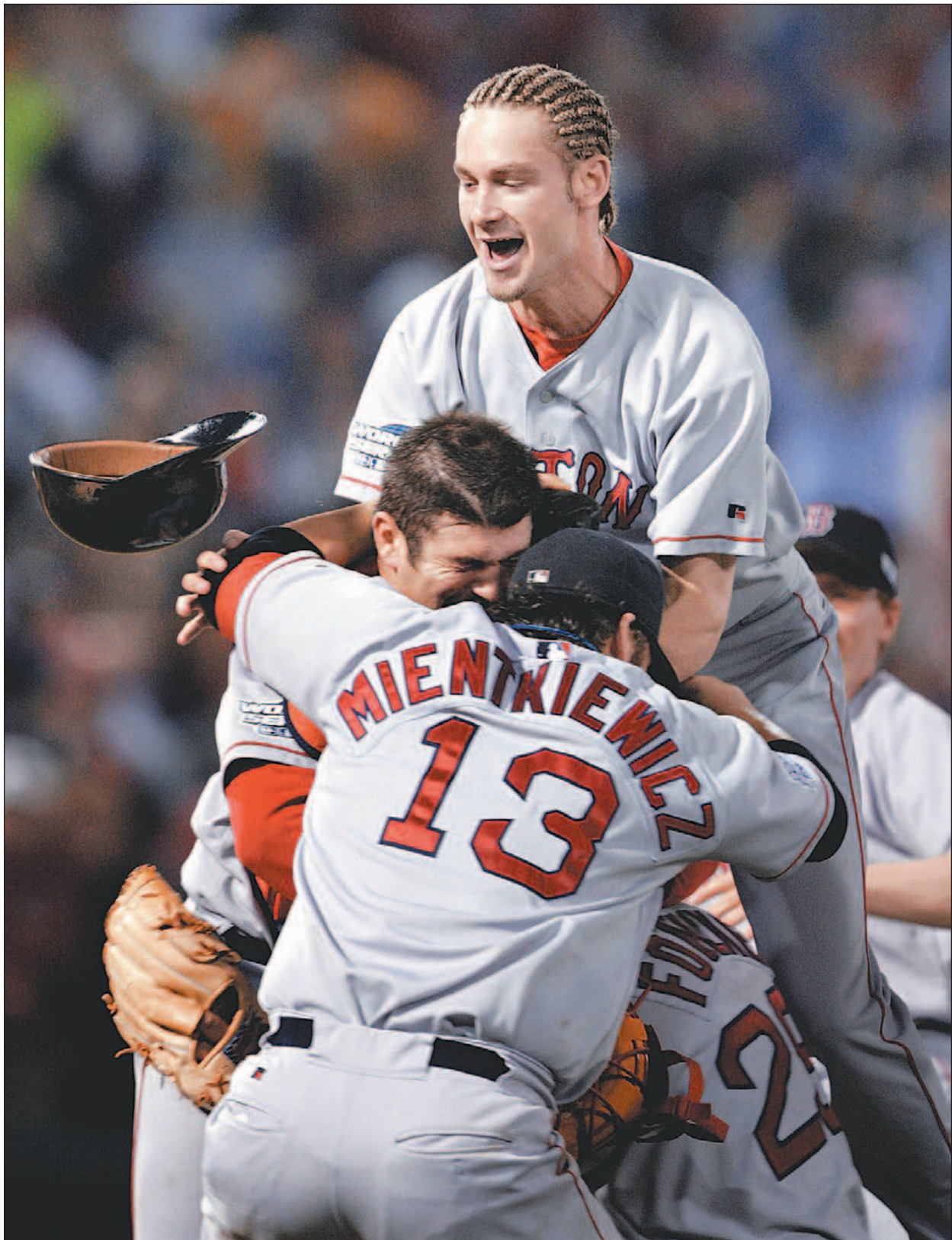
■ **INSIDE:** Kidnapped aid worker begs for her life.

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While Ramadi is not exactly a "no-go" zone for the Marines, like the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah 30 miles to the east, officers say it is fast slipping in that direction. In the last six weeks, guerrillas have stepped up the pace of assassinations of Iraqis working with the Americans, and Marine officials say they suspect Iraqi security officers have been helping insurgents to attack their troops. Reconstruction efforts have ground to a halt because no local contractors are

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BOSTON WINS SERIES, ENDS 86-YEAR 'CURSE'



Boston pitcher Bronson Arroyo leaps on teammates Jason Varitek, left, Doug Mientkiewicz and Keith Foulke after the Red Sox defeated St. Louis 3-0 to complete a 4-0 sweep of the World Series on Wednesday in St. Louis. The championship is Boston's first since 1918 and ends the "Curse of the Bambino." See Sports, Page C-1, for coverage.

Report advises slashing the fleet

■ **BRISTOL BAY:** Number of commercial sockeye permits should be cut in half, state report suggests.

By **WESLEY LOY**
Anchorage Daily News

A new state report says the world's biggest sockeye salmon run at Bristol Bay is no longer a viable draw for hundreds of commercial fishermen. It's the latest sign of the depth of the depression gripping the Alaska salmon industry because of competition from foreign salmon farmers.

The long-awaited report recommends that the number of Bristol Bay fishing boat permits should be slashed roughly in half, to as few as 800 from the current 1,857.

The "optimum number" study from the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, the agency that issues commercial fishing permits, says so many boats can no longer make a profit in the Bristol Bay fishery, the value of which has plummeted in recent years as fish farming has exploded.

Fewer boats would mean more sockeye and thus more dollars to go around for fishermen who remain, the study says.

The big question is how to make hundreds of boats go away. Each permit today is worth about \$34,000, according to state data. In better days, as recently as 1995, permits were bought and sold on the open market for well over \$200,000.

The most likely means of shrinking the fleet is a fishermen-financed buyout program, where salmon catches would be taxed to generate money to buy out some fishermen.

But that step probably is years off. First, the entry commission wants feedback from the public on the optimum number study, said Bruce Twomley, commission chairman.

A big concern is the Alaska Constitution, which

See Back Page, BRISTOL BAY

Outlandish political ad envisions death of Stevens, mocks his son

■ **ANGRY SENATOR:** When Knowles expresses similar outrage, producer agrees to pull it from the air.

By **NICOLE TSONG** and **RICHARD MAUER**
Anchorage Daily News

A satiric radio ad that mocks U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens and his son drew the fury of Alaska's senior senator Wednesday as he campaigned for Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Stevens threatened to go on the attack in the final few days of the campaign against her Senate opponent, Democrat Tony Knowles, if the ad continued.

Later in the day, after Knowles also objected to the ad, the creator and star of the spot said he planned to pull it.

Stevens made the threat during an appearance Wednesday with Murkowski and U.S. Rep. Don Young as the leading candidates in the U.S. Senate race worked feverishly to bolster their message. Knowles tried to shore up support with

veterans, while the congressional delegation rallied to Murkowski's side at the Sheraton Hotel.

Stevens said at a press conference that he heard the radio advertisement once, and it "goes beyond the pale of decency."

The ad, produced and voiced by lobbyist Bill Bobrick, envisions a world where if people vote for Knowles, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., will send bees to sting Alaskans in their "nether regions" and Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., will take people's guns and enslave their children to liberals. It goes on to say, "and Ted Stevens will die, he'll die, I tell you, and then we'll be stuck with (Stevens' son) Ben Stevens, and then Frank Murkowski will have to adopt him and appoint him to the U.S. Senate."

Ted Stevens, who has said he would not attack Knowles while supporting Murkowski, said he has a good personal relationship with the former governor dating back over years of playing tennis and

See Back Page, SENATE RACE

ALASKA ELECTION 2004

TONIGHT'S DEBATE

■ **TV AND RADIO:** Another televised debate in the U.S. Senate election will be at 8 p.m. today. The debate, sponsored by the Daily News and Alaska Public Television, will be carried live on the Alaska Public Radio network; on Channel 7 in Anchorage and public television stations statewide; and nationally on the C-SPAN cable network.

■ **INSIDE:** Check out today's Alaska section for a look at the races for Senate District 0 and House District 22.

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■ **ON THE WEB:** Follow the links to listen to tonight's debate online.
www.adn.com/links

Kohring clarifies his 'rental' arrangement

■ **SEMANTICS?** Valley Republican changes tune about living situation in his parents' trailer.

By **ZAZ HOLLANDER**
Anchorage Daily News

WASILLA — Does state Rep. Vic Kohring rent from his parents? And why is it an issue in his re-election campaign?

Two weeks ago, the conservative Wasilla Republican defended attacks on his residency from Democrat challenger Pat Carney by telling reporters that he lived within House District 14 by renting part of a mobile home owned by his parents, Heinz and Dolores Kohring, in a Wasilla subdivision.

"I rent the back half," Kohring told the Daily News during an interview earlier this month. "I pay them rent. ... It works out for us."

But on Wednesday, Kohring said the "rental situation" with his



Kohring

See Back Page, KOHRING

Scientists discover skeletons of prehistoric miniature humans



Professor Chris Stringer moves a cast of the skull of what is said to be a new species in the evolution of man.

IT WAS A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

Three-foot-tall 'Hobbit' weighed 55 pounds and used tools

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A miniature, long-lost relative of modern humans has been discovered, shaking up science's view of how we evolved on Earth.

Scientists, who unearthed her after 18,000 years, nicknamed her "Hobbit," after the short characters who starred in "Lord of the Rings." She stood 3 feet tall with a brain the size of a grapefruit. Yet she was smart enough to use tools, boats and probably language, and likely hunted pygmy elephants. She's being called a strange new species of human.

Scientists found Hobbit and six other skeletons of this lost species on Flores, a remote Indonesian island, according to a study to be published Thursday in the scientific journal Nature.

The discovery means that about 50,000 years ago, there were four species of humans roaming the Earth at the same time: Homo sapiens (us), Homo erectus, Neanderthals and this new relative, called Homo floresiensis (also called Flores Man).

The scientists who found the skeletons last year in a cave on the island, about 375 miles east of Bali, named their best specimen, a 30-year-old female, after the diminutive Tolkien fantasy characters. She and her contemporaries weighed about 55 pounds, had slightly longer arms than modern humans, had thicker eyebrow ridges than we do, sharply sloping foreheads and not much of a chin, said co-discoverer Richard "Bert" Roberts of Australia's University of Wollon-

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