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COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

BY Quilley  
DEPUTY

1 JAMES C. BRAZELTON  
District Attorney  
2 Stanislaus County  
Courthouse  
3 Modesto, California  
Telephone: 525-5550  
4 Attorney for Plaintiff

7 STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
8 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

9 -----oOo-----

10 D.A. No.1056770  
11 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ) No.1056770  
12 )  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 )  
13 vs. ) PEOPLE'S SUBMISSION  
14 ) REGARDING THE  
14 ) APPROPRIATE VENUE  
15 ) TRANSFER SITE AND  
15 SCOTT LEE PETERSON, ) MCGOWAN HEARING  
16 )  
16 Defendant. ) Hrg: 1-20-04  
17 ) Time: 9:00 a.m.  
17 ) Dept: 2  
17 -----oOo-----

18 Comes now the People of the State of California to submit the  
19 following:

20 LAW

21 A court's discretion in selecting a proper venue site is to be  
22 guided by the "interests of justice," (see McGown v. Superior Court  
23 (1977) 75 Cal.App.3d 648, 652). Considerations of relative  
24 convenience, nearness, hardship, cost, time, presence or absence of  
25 prejudicial publicity, and the conservation of judicial resources  
26 and public funds are important factors in deciding between various  
27 venue sites. (People v. Cooper (1991) 53 Cal.3d 771, 803-805;  
28 People v. Hernandez (1988) 47 Cal.3d 315, 336.)

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## COMPARISON OF FACTORS

The People have attempted to gather information for the court to assist it in making a decision that will be in the "interest of justice." To accomplish this task, due to the lack of time, the People have made use of the internet and many travel search tools.

### **A. Population of Counties**

According to the most recent figures available (included in prior filings), Alameda County has a population of 1,496,200 residents, and ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the State. Orange County has a population of 2,978,800 residents and ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State. San Mateo has a population of 717,000 residents and ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the State. Santa Clara County has a population of 1,729,900 residents and ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the State.

### **B. Airport Accessibility**

Oakland International Airport is approximately 3 miles from downtown Oakland. It is served by the following airlines: Alaska, American, Aloha, AmericaWest, Continental, Delta, Horizon, Mexicana, JetBlue, Southwest and United. It is served by the following car rental companies: Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Fox, Hertz, National and Thrifty.

Orange County John Wayne Airport is approximately 10 miles from downtown Santa Ana. It is served by the following airlines: Alaska, Aloha, American, AmericaWest, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Midwest, Northwest, Southwest and United. It is served by the following car rental companies: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise,

1 Hertz, National and Thrifty.

2 San Francisco International Airport is is approximately 10  
3 miles from downtown San Mateo and approximately 18 miles from  
4 downtown Redwood City. It is served by ALL major (and many minor)  
5 airlines and car rental companies.

6 The San Jose International Airport is located approximately 5  
7 miles from the Santa Clara Hall of Justice in downtown Santa Clara.  
8 The airport provides services for major airlines including Alaska,  
9 Air Canada, American, Canadian Air, Mexicana Airlines, Skywest,  
10 Southwest, United, America West, Continental, Northwest, TWA and  
11 Delta. There are several rental car companies serving the airport  
12 area including, Able, Avis, Dollar, Alamo, Hertz, Thrifty and  
13 National. There are also free shuttle bus services connecting to the  
14 public transportation system.

15  
16 **C. Public Transportation**

17 Alameda has ground transportation including bus (AC Transit).  
18 There is an AirTrain link to the Amtrak station in Jack London  
19 Square. The bus service connects with Amtrak and BART (the nearest  
20 BART station is the Coliseum/Airport station).

21 Orange County has ground transportation including light rail  
22 and bus. The bus/light rail service connects with Amtrak, Greyhound,  
23 and MetroLink terminals approximately 10 miles away.

24 In San Mateo there is also ground transportation including bus  
25 connections to CalTrain and BART. (CalTrain is commuter service from  
26 San Francisco, the nearest BART station is at the airport).

27 For Santa Clara, the Valley Transportation Authority operates a  
28

1 bus and light rail system throughout the Santa Clara/San Jose area.  
2 Several bus routes are close to hotels and the courthouse. The bus  
3 service also connects with Amtrak, Caltrain, ACE, and BART. (ACE is  
4 a commuter service from Stockton). The closest BART station is  
5 located in Fremont. The Amtrak Station is approximately 12 blocks  
6 from the courthouse.

#### 7 8 **D. Distance and Travel Costs**

9 The distance from the Stanislaus County Courthouse to the Wiley  
10 Manuel Courthouse in Alameda, located at 661 Washington Street,  
11 Oakland, CA 94607, is 81 miles, with an estimated travel time of 1  
12 hours and 39 minutes, without traffic. ([www.MapsOnUs.com](http://www.MapsOnUs.com).)

13 The distance from the Stanislaus County Courthouse to the  
14 Orange County Central Justice Center (CJC) Courthouse, located at  
15 700 Civic Center Drive, West, Santa Ana, CA 92701, is 339.8 miles,  
16 with an estimated travel time of 7 hours and 2 minutes. (Ibid.)

17 The distance from the Stanislaus County Courthouse to the San  
18 Mateo County Courthouse, Southern Branch located at 400 County  
19 Center, Redwood City, California, 94063, is 88.4 miles, with an  
20 estimated travel time of 1 hours and 56 minutes, without traffic.  
21 (Ibid.)

22 The distance from the Stanislaus County Courthouse to the Santa  
23 Clara Hall of Justice Courthouse, located at 190-200 West Hedding  
24 Street, San Jose, CA 95110, is 87.2 miles, with an estimated travel  
25 time of 1 hours and 45 minutes, without traffic. (Ibid.)

26 The People anticipate calling several out-of-state witnesses.  
27 Airfares from these out-of-state locations to all of the Bay Area  
28

1 airports appear to be essentially the same cost, varying in only  
2 negligible amounts. This is not the case with Orange County.

3 The People would also have to fly almost all of our witnesses  
4 to Orange County, because of the extremely long drive from  
5 Stanislaus County. There are also no direct flights from Modesto to  
6 Orange County. The average range of cost for a round-trip to Orange  
7 County is \$194-\$550, with some flights from Modesto costing over  
8 \$1100. The cheaper fares are based on witnesses somehow getting  
9 themselves to either Sacramento or Bay Area airports - doing this  
10 most likely would mean that a county employee would have to drive  
11 the witness(es) to the airport, or the witnesses, if able, would  
12 have to drive themselves and be reimbursed for milage and parking;  
13 the People have several hundred witnesses on the witness list and  
14 even if we only called 50% (roughly 175 witnesses) the cost would  
15 between \$33,950.00 to \$96,250.00, not including the driving expense.

16 In this day and age, none of the witnesses can just "hop" on a  
17 plane and travel. Each witness is going to have to be at the airport  
18 approximately two hours prior to any flight. The reality of this is  
19 that each and every witness (not within driving distance to the new  
20 courthouse) will be forced to spend the night - either to arrive  
21 early enough or because they were there so long. Even if witnesses  
22 can fly home after court, the People would again have to pay  
23 overtime for a driver, or a rental car or even milage/parking.

#### 24 25 **E. Hotel Accommodations**

26 In Alameda County, the average rate for one night's hotel is  
27 \$150 (per CSAA). Rates do not include taxes and surcharges. Rates  
28

1 | may be negotiable for long term stays.

2 |       In Orange County, the average rate for one night's hotel is  
3 | \$100 (per CSAA). It should be noted that this includes Anaheim and  
4 | all the inexpensive family motels around theme parks, and which are  
5 | some distance from the courthouse. Rates do not include taxes and  
6 | surcharges. Rates may be negotiable for long term stays.

7 |       In San Mateo, the average rate for one night's hotel is \$160  
8 | (per CSAA). Rates do not include taxes and surcharges. Rates may be  
9 | negotiable for long term stays.

10 |       In Santa Clara, the average nightly rate (CSAA) for a hotel  
11 | room is \$163.00.

12 |

13 | **F. Rental Car Rates**

14 |       For a compact car, the rates range from \$14.24 to \$56.99. The  
15 | rates varied by county and companies but none significantly.

16 |

17 | **G. Housing Costs For Staff**

18 |       For longer-term accommodations, the People obtained rates for  
19 | extended-stay hotels and apartments off of the internet:

20 |       Alameda - Extended-stay hotels ranged from \$49.99- \$169.00 per  
21 | day, and some security concerns have been raised regarding the  
22 | "cheaper" locations. Apartments in the Oakland/Alameda/Emeryville  
23 | area range from approximately \$1,000 to \$1,800 for a one-bedroom  
24 | facility. Utilities, etc., are not included.

25 |       Orange - Extended-stay hotels ranged from \$67-\$159 per day.  
26 | Apartments in the Orange County area range from approximately \$800  
27 | to \$1,200 for a one-bedroom facility. Utilities, etc., are not

28 |

1 included.

2 San Mateo - Extended-stay hotels ranged from \$73.99 -\$164 per  
3 day. Apartments in the San Mateo area range from \$1000-\$1800 for a  
4 one-bedroom facility. Utilities, etc., are not included.

5 Santa Clara - Extended-stay hotels ranged from \$47.99-\$152 per  
6 day. Apartments in the San Jose/Santa Clara area range from  
7 approximately \$1,000 to \$1,800 for a one-bedroom facility.  
8 Utilities, etc., are not included.

9  
10 **H. Newspaper Coverage**

11 In assessing the quantity of coverage of this case, the People  
12 have run internet searches on the name "Scott Peterson" and have  
13 found the following (**Exhibit 1**):

14 The Alameda County papers **Alameda Times Star** ([www.timesstar.com](http://www.timesstar.com))  
15 published 167 articles using the "all years" feature on the sites  
16 search engine and not all of the articles appear to be about this  
17 case; the **Oakland Tribune** ([www.oaklandtribune.com](http://www.oaklandtribune.com)) published 136  
18 articles using the "all years" search function and not all of the  
19 articles dealt with this case; the **San Francisco Chronicle**  
20 ([www.sfgate.com/chronicle](http://www.sfgate.com/chronicle)) published 133 articles in 2004, 1205 in  
21 2003 and 1180 in 2002 - most of these articles appear not to relate  
22 to this case; the **San Francisco Examiner** ([www.sfexaminer.com](http://www.sfexaminer.com))  
23 published 19 articles from 1/1/2003 to 1/15/2004 using the search  
24 engine and not all of these articles relate to this case.

25 The Orange County papers, the **Orange County Register**  
26 ([www.ocregister.com](http://www.ocregister.com)) published 200 articles using the "all years"  
27 search function but not all of the articles relate to this case, and  
28

1 the LA Times ([www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)) which has an Orange County edition,  
2 published 35 articles (found in the current search area) and 1573  
3 articles (found in the archives) using the "all dates" search but  
4 not all of the articles relate to this case.

5 The San Mateo county papers, the **San Mateo County Times**  
6 ([www.sanmateocountytimes.com](http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com)) published 87 articles using the "all  
7 years" search function but not all of the articles related to this  
8 case; and the **San Mateo Daily Journal** ([www.smdailyjournal.org](http://www.smdailyjournal.org))  
9 published 13 articles using the "search function" and all appear to  
10 be related to this case.

11 The Santa Clara paper, **San Jose Mercury News**  
12 ([www.mercurynews.com](http://www.mercurynews.com)) published 150 articles during the period of  
13 12/24/02 to 12/31/03, which dates are limited by the website  
14 archives for the paper. Not all of the articles concerned this case.

#### 15 16 **I. Television Coverage**

17 Television coverage was previously addressed in both the  
18 defense venue motion and the People's Opposition.

#### 19 20 **CONCLUSION**

21 If the court does not reconsider Sacramento, then it is clear  
22 from the above facts that the three Bay Area counties are more  
23 appropriate than Orange County; as the Cooper court said:

24 The court properly considered relative nearness as a factor  
25 weighing heavily in favor of trial in San Diego. San Diego was  
26 more convenient for witnesses, attorneys, and others, including  
interested citizens of San Bernardino County, the county of the  
crime.

27 People v. Cooper, supra, 53 Cal.3d 771, 805.



1 If the People had to choose between the Bay Area counties,  
2 based on the information provided by the AOC, the People would first  
3 select Santa Clara, then San Mateo, and Alameda last. San Mateo has  
4 had the least amount of media coverage. Alameda and Orange seem to  
5 have had the most media coverage.

6 The court should also eliminate Orange County as being "cost  
7 prohibitive" and posing an undue hardship to witnesses and citizens  
8 of Stanislaus County.

9  
10 Dated: 1-16-04

11 Respectfully submitted,

12  
13 JAMES C. BRAZELTON

14 District Attorney

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16  
17 By:

18 David P. Harris  
19 Sr. Deputy District Attorney  
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Exhibit 1

# Alameda Times-Star

www.timesstar.com

Searched for: allfields(scott peterson) AND date(all)

Returned: 10 displays of 167 matches

## Peterson trial move uncertain

**Date:** January 10, 2004

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

MODESTO -- Several college students say they fabricated survey results factored into a judge's decision to move Scott Peterson's capital murder trial out of Modesto.

"We falsified the info," a 20-year-old criminal justice student at California State University, Stanislaus, said. "The stuff we submitted wasn't true." The student was one of six who said they made up information; all declined to be identified.

Students surveyed possible jurors in several

## Pregnant Amber Frey testimony considered

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** January 4, 2004

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

MODESTO -- The prospect of a visibly pregnant Amber Frey taking the stand in the double-murder trial of her former lover, Scott Peterson, could introduce yet another intriguing dynamic, some legal observers say.

"She will remind you that the victim was pregnant, too," said prominent Los Angeles defense attorney Harland Braun.

The victim was Peterson's wife, Laci, who was about eight months pregnant when she was reported missing on Christmas Eve last year.

Frey, 28, is

## Prosecutors fight attempt to relocate Peterson trial

**Date:** January 3, 2004

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

'No point' in move, they say, because of attention case has already received

</wire>

MODESTO -- Prosecutors seeking the death penalty against Scott Peterson in the death of his wife and unborn son on Friday moved to keep the trial in Laci Peterson's hometown.

In a court filing, prosecutors said worldwide media attention regarding the case has spread so much publicity throughout California "there is no point in a change of venue."

A hearing on

## Newsmakers 2004: Heres 10 (or so) Bay Area people wholl be grabbing headlines in the upcoming year

**Date:** December 28, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

A frog-studying scientist. A budding soul siren. Clashing CEOs. And a tough-talking teachers union chief.

What do these people have in common?

They are among ANG Newspapers Bay Area News-makers 2004.

They are Tyrone Hayes, the hip, young assistant professor of integrative biology the at University of California, Berkeley; Goapele, the 26-year-old Oakland-based R&B/soul sensation; Oracle CEO Larry Ellison vs. PeopleSoft CEO Craig Conway; and Barbara Kerr, president of the

## Major news events from California in 2003

**Date:** December 28, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

JANUARY

Jan. 2

-- Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer named MVP as USC tops Iowa in Orange Bowl.

Jan. 6

-- Gov. Gray Davis starts second term as he and seven other Democrats are sworn in to top statewide offices. Jan. 10

-- Davis calls for tax increases, deep cuts to help close nearly \$35 billion budget deficit.

-- Judge issues eviction order for Southern California tree-sitting activist trying to protect 400-year-old oak.

Jan. 23

-- Actress Nell Carter of "Gimme a

JoanBLADES & WesBOYD THEY DIDN'T REALIZE they were starting a revolution. The Berkeley software engineers, a married couple, just wanted Congress to censure President Clinton and move on with the nation's business. In 1998 they launched MoveOn.org as an o

**Date:** December 28, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

Larry ELLISON

vs. Craig CONWAY

TWO HYPERCOMPETITIVE Bay Area software titans, Larry Ellison and Craig Conway, will continue their acrimonious battle in 2004.

Ellison, the flamboyant chief executive officer of Redwood City-based software giant Oracle Corp., has been trying since June to take over Pleasanton-based competitor PeopleSoft Inc. The \$7.3 billion takeover attempt shocked Silicon Valley and turned personal several times, with Conway at one point comparing Ellison, his former

### Motion to dismiss in Peterson case

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** December 24, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

MODESTO -- Police "deliberately ignored" evidence that would have benefited Scott Peterson, and prosecutors have failed to show that his wife's death involved a crime, according to a motion seeking to dismiss double murder charges.

"The police -- from the very beginning -- decided that their job was to put Scott Peterson on death row," defense attorney Mark Geragos wrote in the motion filed Monday afternoon in Stanislaus County Superior Court.

"They

### Peterson trial set to begin Jan. 26

**Date:** December 4, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

</wire>

MODESTO -- Scott Peterson pleaded innocent Wednesday to charges of murdering his pregnant wife and unborn son, and a judge scheduled his trial to begin Jan. 26.

It was the second time that Peterson, 31, answered to the charges that could send him to death row since his arrest in April. Peterson was forced to face the charges again after a judge decided last month after a preliminary hearing that there was enough evidence for prosecutors to take the case to

### Peterson's cash focus of motion

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** November 20, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

MODESTO -- Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Al Girolami plans to hear arguments on releasing two pieces of evidence Dec. 3, when Scott Peterson is to be arraigned on the double-murder charges upheld Tuesday at his preliminary hearing.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos asked prosecutors to release the \$15,000 cash Peterson had with him when he was arrested and Peterson's Ford pickup, which police seized in December.

"It's an expensive task for the family to fund

## Transcript of call between Peterson and Amber Frey

**Author:** WIRE REPORTS

**Date:** November 19, 2003

**Publication:** Alameda Times-Star (CA)

MODESTO -- Scott Peterson's preliminary hearing concluded Tuesday with testimony from Detective Jon Buehler about a Jan. 6 phone call secretly recorded by Peterson's girlfriend, Amber Frey, at the request of police.

Laci Peterson was reported missing Dec. 24, two weeks after Scott Peterson told Frey he was a widower. The following are excerpts from a transcript of the 23-minute call entered into evidence Tuesday:

Scott Peterson: I am so sorry I hurt you in this way. ...

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# Oakland Tribune

www.oaklandtribune.com

Searched for: allfields(scott peterson) AND date(all)

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### One year after Laci's disappearance, lawyers plan tactics

**Author:** John Cote - MODESTO BEE

**Date:** December 25, 2003

**Publication:** Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

MODESTO -- Christmas Eve 2002 spawned a family's nightmare and triggered a community outpouring. The details of what happened that day could determine whether a Modesto man lives or dies.

Scott Peterson's future appears to now hinge on what's uncovered as defense and prosecution investigators piece together testimony and evidence in efforts to craft very different pictures.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for the 31-year-old fertilizer salesman, who they contend

### Motion to dismiss in Peterson case

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** December 24, 2003

**Publication:** Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

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prosecutors have failed to show that his wife's death involved a crime, according to a motion seeking to dismiss double murder charges.

"The police -- from the very beginning -- decided that their job was to put Scott Peterson on death row," defense attorney Mark Geragos wrote in the motion filed Monday afternoon in Stanislaus County Superior Court.

"They

### Trial could be pushed back

**Author:** John Cote - SCRIPPS-MCCLATCHY

**Date:** December 3, 2003

**Publication:** Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

MODESTO -- Scott Peterson's trial date is expected to be set today after he is formally arraigned on charges he murdered his wife and unborn son.

But whatever date is picked could be pushed back for any of a number of reasons, including hearings on moving the trial to another county because of massive publicity.

Peterson, 31, faces his second arraignment in the case after Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Al Girolami last month upheld the charges following a 12-day preliminary

### Peterson's cash focus of motion

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** November 20, 2003

**Publication:** Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

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"It's an expensive task for the family to fund

### Doctor: No evidence on how Laci died

**Author:** FROM WIRE REPORTS

**Date:** November 18, 2003

**Publication:** Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

MODESTO -- By the time the sea surrendered Laci Peterson's childless body, it had washed away any evidence of how she was killed, leaving only decomposed remains ravaged by sea creatures and the tides, a forensic pathologist testified Monday.

As the preliminary hearing to determine whether Scott Peterson will stand trial for murder in the deaths of his wife and unborn son stretched into a fourth week, Dr. Brian Peterson testified that Laci Peterson's head, neck, forearms and most

### Girlfriend may have to testify after all

**Author:** FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

**Date:** November 15, 2003

**Publication:** Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

MODESTO -- Amber Frey may have to testify after all, her attorney said Friday.

Gloria Allred said her client may be called by the defense in the double murder preliminary hearing of Scott Peterson, who Frey was dating at the time of his wife's disappearance. On Thursday, the prosecution said Frey would not be needed until the trial, if there is one.

Allred told reporters that Peterson's attorney "should be careful what he wishes for" in asking Frey to testify in the

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01/15/2004 - Chronicle

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- **SFGate: Day in Pictures**  
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- **SHARKS NOTEBOOK - Cheechoo's streak is put on ice**  
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- **S.F. gadfly stung for conduct - Affirmative action officer is fired at rights agency**  
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- **49ers 'dead' in cap - Donahue says team taking new approach**  
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- **Sharks alone atop division**  
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- **Sharks tonight**  
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- **Mad, and not taking it anymore**  
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- **Fitting end for S.F. - Defeat closes out season of frustration**  
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12/28/2003 - Chronicle
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- **THE BEST OF Q&A - Leaders talk about doing business in Bay Area, reveal personalities**  
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- **Missing woman search widens - Reward now \$500,000 for safe return in Modesto**  
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- **MANSI, Robert Francis**  
12/28/2002 - Chronicle
- **Bubbling up a pot of fertilizer tea**  
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- **Search finds no trace of Modesto woman - Police seem to focus on husband but say he is not a suspect**  
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- **Menlo-Atherton's star quarterback is humble, to boot**  
12/27/2002 - Chronicle
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12/27/2002 - Chronicle
- **Search on for missing Modesto woman**  
12/27/2002 - Chronicle
- **JACKSON, Nadine J.**  
12/25/2002 - Chronicle
- **A pear tree is making a mess of the yard**  
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**Officer saw bucket and mops in front of Peterson home**  
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**Peterson expert questions DNA technique**  
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**Scott Peterson hearing centers on disputed DNA evidence of hair**  
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**Judge bans cameras at Peterson hearing**  
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**Ben unveils wedding details**

Published on: 07/25/2003

**Stupid 'Cupid'**

Published on: 07/10/2003

**Judge won't give Peterson lawyers files on S.F. case**

Published on: 07/10/2003

**Good, bad & ridiculous**

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**Bush team goes after Paul O'Neill**

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Article 1 of 200 found.

**CSF gets motion sickness // The Titans are kept off balance by Northridge's offense in a 61-55 loss.**  
January 4, 2004

**Byline: JANIS CARR**  
The Orange County Register

FULLERTON Normally after losses Cal State Fullerton coach Bob Burton is not happy. He hates losing, probably because he hasn't experienced much of it in his 30 years of coaching.

Yet Burton seemingly was not altogether upset Saturday after watching the Titans lose to Cal State Northridge, 61-55, in the Big West opener for both teams in front of 823 at Titan Gym.

Either he is getting used to the losses and mounting injuries, or he actually sees improvement after 10 games.

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Story appeared in the  
**Sports** section

I.D. number: 65625160

Number of words: 827

Article 2 of 200 found.

**The Rise, And Fall // YEAR: A number of local teams experienced success, and others failure**  
January 1, 2004

**Byline: Mark Garcia**  
The Orange County Register

A famous book once led with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

It certainly was that for a number teams and players in the San Clemente sportsworld in 2003.

Here's a month-by-month look at the happenings of 2003:

JANUARY

The year began with a bang as the top-ranked Lady Triton basketball team defeated Mater Dei to win the Larry Doyle Orange County Championship.

Former Dana Hills tennis guru and San Clemente

Story appeared in the  
**SunPostNews** section

I.D. number: 65584864

Number of words: 2844

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**Avila's murder trial pushed back // Man accused of killing 5-year-old Samantha Runnion won't face jury until at least spring after defense asks for more time.**

December 20, 2003

Story appeared in the **Local** section

I.D. number: 65417749

Number of words: 610

**Byline: LARRY WELBORN**  
The Orange County Register

Erin Runnion came to court Friday hoping to learn that the trial for the man accused of kidnapping, sexually assaulting and murdering her 5-year-old daughter would get under way soon.

She has waited nearly a year and a half for justice, since the day that chestnut-haired Samantha was kidnapped from in front of her Stanton home. The little girl's nude and battered body was found the next day off Ortega (74) Highway in Riverside County.

The death-penalty trial of suspect

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Article 4 of 200 found.

**ORANGE COUNTY DEATHS**

December 3, 2003

Story appeared in the **Local** section

I.D. number: 65076127

Number of words: 3488

The Orange County Register

Darrell Barton Albers, 83, of Yorba Linda, a retired Marine, died Nov. 29, 2003, of causes yet to be determined. Services: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Riverside National Cemetery, Staging Area No. 3. Arrangements by McAulay & Wallace Mortuary, Yorba Linda.

Son, Darrell; daughter, Barbara Jeffries; sister, Wanda Erickson; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Patricia Isabell Argueta, 74, of Anaheim, owner of Antique Alley, died Nov. 26, 2003, of congestive heart

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Article 5 of 200 found.

**Defense in Runnion case asks for delay // Avila's attorneys want until summer to size up DNA tests' validity.**

November 22, 2003

Story appeared in the **Local** section

I.D. number: 64924074

Number of words: 477

**Byline: RACHANEE SRISAVASDI**  
The Orange County Register

Attorneys for a man accused of kidnapping and killing a 5-year-old Stanton girl in July 2002 told a judge Friday that they will not be ready for the scheduled January trial and want it delayed until summer.

Assistant Public Defender Denise Gragg said the extra time is needed to evaluate the validity of two DNA tests performed by out-of-state labs in the death-penalty case against Alejandro Avila, 28, of Lake Elsinore.

The factory worker has pleaded not guilty to kidnapping

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Article 6 of 200 found.

**ORANGE COUNTY DEATHS**

November 19, 2003

Story appeared in the **Local** section

The Orange County Register

I.D. number: 64863491

James Andreas Auest, 92, of Anaheim, a retired engineer, died Nov. 17, 2003, of natural causes. Arrangements by Hilgenfeld Mortuary, Anaheim.

Number of words: 2585

Wife, Vera; son, Walter Hahne; daughter, Linda Hahne; one grandchild; one great-grandchild.

Arturo Ochoa Benitez, 27, of Anaheim, died Nov. 15, 2003, of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Visitation: 4-9 p.m. Thursday, with vigil at 7 p.m., Family Mortuary, Santa Ana. Services: 11 a.m. Friday, St. Anthony Claret Church,

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**49ers have a Lott of fun at Steelers' expense // They retire the great safety's No. 42 at halftime, then put Pittsburgh away with a 20-point run.**

November 18, 2003

Story appeared in the Sports section

**Byline: MICHAEL LEV**  
The Orange County Register

I.D. number: 64850645

Number of words: 1004

SAN FRANCISCO On the night they retired Ronnie Lott's No. 42, the San Francisco 49ers posted some other impressive numbers:

30 -- Points scored, for the second consecutive game, more than enough to defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers, 30-14, Monday night at 3Com Park.

155 -- Receiving yards for Terrell Owens, his season high. Owens set the tone for his big night with a 61-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter.

78 -- Yards gained on Kevan Barlow's

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**The talking heads // Bush may be vulnerable, but the Democrats offer a field of weak challengers**

November 9, 2003

Story appeared in the Commentary section

**Byline: ALAN W. BOCK**  
The Orange County Register

I.D. number: 64687184

Number of words: 1622

From the perspective of a libertarian, a conservative or a moderately thoughtful American -- let alone a full-blown liberal -- there is much not to like about President Bush. He used the trauma of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, buttressed by bad advice and almost certainly cooked intelligence, to carry the country into an unnecessary war that seemed triumphal for a few weeks but whose aftermath turns out to be costly in both lives and treasure -- and virtually endless.

The president

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Article 9 of 200 found.

**EASTERN CONFERENCE // CENTRAL DIVISION**

October 28, 2003

Story appeared in the Sports section

**Byline: ART THOMPSON III,**  
The Orange County Register

I.D. number: 64485464

Number of words: 1710

1. DETROIT PISTONS

2002-03 record: 50-32

(Lost to New Jersey 4-0 in Eastern Conference finals)

Coach: Larry Brown, 1st season, 21st overall (879-685)

Key addition: Elden Campbell

Key loss: Clifford Robinson

Outlook: The Pistons have been among the hardest-working teams. Their game management should improve under Brown. Ben Wallace, the NBA's defensive player of the year, does not have to play as an undersized center now that Detroit has

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Article 10 of 200 found.

**LAKE FOREST AND MISSION VIEJO OBITUARIES**

September 26, 2003

The Orange County Register

Joanne "Jody" Kolar, 72, former office and legal advertising manager for the Saddleback Valley News and a resident of San Clemente, died Sept. 20 in Hemet. Arrangements by McWane Family Funeral Home, Hemet. A private family service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Covina Hills.

Survivors: husband, Alan; son, Joseph.

**MISSION VIEJO**

Doris J. Bell, 74, died Sept. 12 of cancer. Arrangements by Community Funeral Service, La Habra.

Survivors: son, Allen;

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Story appeared in the **Saddleback** section

**I.D. number:** 64020580

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Outcome of the former Inglewood policeman's trial is expected to have an effect on the district attorney's race as well as the community. Anna Gorman; Los Angeles Times; Jan 12, 2004; pg. B.1
2. **California**  
Students Who Did Bias Survey for Judge in Peterson Case Say They Faked Much of Data Los Angeles Times; Jan 10, 2004; pg. B.10
3. **REGARDING MEDIA / TIM RUTTEN**  
Balancing rights in Peterson trial TIM RUTTEN; Los Angeles Times; Jan 10, 2004; pg. E.1
4. **The State; Peterson Trial Will Be Moved**  
Judge orders a change of venue from Stanislaus County over extensive media coverage. The case may be pushed back for weeks, if not months. Los Angeles Times; Jan 9, 2004; pg. B.8
5. **REFLECTIONS ON 2003: LAW ENFORCEMENT; Fame and Fortune, Law and Order Were Themes**  
Celebrities fended off accusations and the U.S. Supreme Court derailed old cases against priests. Richard Winton; Los Angeles Times; Dec 27, 2003; pg. B.1
6. **He dunnit, copper**  
Characters in Andrew Klavan's "Dynamite Road" smoke, drink and cuss. Deal with it. Mimi Avins; Los Angeles Times; Dec 26, 2003; pg. E.31
7. **Movies; REVIEW; A battered soul turned brutal**  
Charlize Theron makes a startling physical transition as murderer Aileen Wuornos, but 'Monster' lacks depth. Manohla Dargis; Los Angeles Times; Dec 26, 2003; pg. E.4
8. **Orange County; Trial Is Set for Accused Killer of Girl**  
Lake Elsinore man who is charged with slaying Samantha Runnion, 5, will stand trial in April. Defense's request to postpone is denied. Claire Luna; Los Angeles Times; Dec 20, 2003; pg. B.3
9. **The State; IN BRIEF / MODESTO**  
Peterson Lawyer Seeks Change of Venue Los Angeles Times; Dec 16, 2003; pg. B.12
10. **California; INSIDE POLITICS**  
Gov. Cancels Events Before Activists Can Crash Them Patrick McGreevy; Los Angeles Times; Dec 15, 2003; pg. B.2

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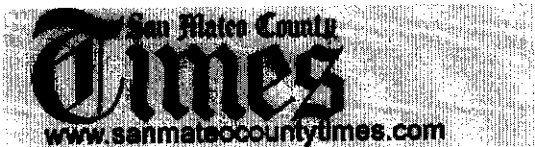


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### Crestmoor venue

**Date:** January 13, 2004

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

SOME folks appear a bit concerned that the murder trial of Scott Peterson might be moved from Modesto to San Mateo County. It's one of several counties under consideration. The arguments against such a change of venue range from worries about local costs to security. Most of the fretting has come from those with a Redwood City connection. And that makes sense. After all, the County Hall of Justice is located in that community. But, if Redwood City doesn't want to exercise that option,

### Justice can't be served for Peterson so close to home

**Date:** January 12, 2004

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

An impartial and fair jury will be hard to find for accused killer Scott Peterson, even in San Mateo, Santa Clara or Alameda counties. But these Bay Area counties are much more likely to produce justice than a court and jury in Peterson's home county of Stanislaus.

Citing the media feeding frenzy leading up to Peterson's trial, Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Al Girolami ruled this week that Peterson couldn't get a fair trial in his wife's home town of Modesto. The

### Sheriff: Holding Peterson here could pose risk

**Author:** Jason Dearen, STAFF WRITER

**Date:** January 10, 2004

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

An overcrowded jail might pose security risks for accused killer Scott Peterson if San Mateo County is chosen to host his trial, but the County's justice system has the capacity to handle the high-profile case, local officials said Friday.

The state's Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco will consider these and other factors before determining which county to recommend for the trial.

The final decision will be made by Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Al

### Pregnant Amber Frey testimony considered

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** January 4, 2004

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

MODESTO -- The prospect of a visibly pregnant Amber Frey taking the stand in the double-murder trial of her former lover, Scott Peterson, could introduce yet another intriguing dynamic, some legal observers say.

"She will remind you that the victim was pregnant, too," said prominent Los Angeles defense attorney Harland Braun.

The victim was Peterson's wife, Laci, who was about eight months pregnant when she was reported missing on Christmas Eve last year.

Frey, 28, is

### Defense claims police ignored evidence

**Author:** MODESTO BEE

**Date:** December 23, 2003

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

MODESTO -- Police "deliberately ignored" evidence that would have benefited Scott Peterson, and prosecutors have failed to show that his wife's death involved a crime, according to a motion seeking to dismiss double murder charges.

"The police -- from the very beginning -- decided that their job was to put Scott Peterson on death row," defense attorney Mark Geragos wrote in the motion filed Monday afternoon in Stanislaus County Superior Court.

"They

### Frey secretly tapes phone conversation with Peterson

**Author:** WIRE REPORTS

**Date:** November 19, 2003

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

MODESTO -- Scott Peterson's preliminary hearing concluded Tuesday with testimony from Detective Jon Buehler about a Jan. 6 phone call secretly recorded by Peterson's girlfriend, Amber Frey, at the request of police.

Laci Peterson was reported missing Dec. 24, two weeks after Scott Peterson told Frey he was a widower. The following are excerpts from a transcript of the 23-minute call entered into evidence Tuesday:

Scott Peterson: I am so sorry I hurt you in this way. ...

### Girlfriend won't testify in hearing

**Author:** STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

**Date:** November 14, 2003

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

MODESTO -- Amber Frey will not testify in Scott Peterson's preliminary hearing, her attorney said Thursday.

Gloria Allred said her client knew there was a chance the District Attorney would decide her testimony was not necessary in the hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence to send Peterson to trial in the murder case of his wife, Laci, and their unborn son.

Allred said Frey, who was Peterson's girlfriend at the time of his wife's disappearance, will provide

## Grand jury indicts husband in 1991 murder

**Author:** Christine Louie, STAFF WRITER

**Date:** November 11, 2003

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

REDWOOD CITY -- The San Mateo County Grand Jury has indicted a former Menlo Park resident for murder in the 1991 death of his wife, whose remains were discovered in September, buried on property he once owned.

Joseph Eli Morrow, 55, remains in custody at the County jail without bail for allegedly killing his 37-year-old wife, Donna, and then leaving her body hidden in a 36-acre parcel in the Los Gatos Hills.

The grand jury's indictment, returned after jurors heard evidence over two

## In testimony, Laci's sister questions fishing alibi

**Author:** Wire Reports

**Date:** November 1, 2003

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

MODESTO -- Laci Peterson's sister testified Friday that Scott Peterson said he had golf plans on Christmas Eve, throwing into question his story about going fishing the day his pregnant wife vanished.

Amy Rocha, a hairdresser, said she cut Scott Peterson's hair Dec. 23 and that he had offered to pick up a gift basket for their grandfather near the country club where he was a member.

"He said he was going to be out that way golfing," she testified. "I assumed all

## Peterson hearing begins

**Author:** John Cote - SCRIPPS-MCCLATCHY

**Date:** October 30, 2003

**Publication:** San Mateo County Times (CA)

MODESTO -- The public's first real look at evidence against accused double-murderer Scott Peterson is expected today when prosecutors begin laying out a legal case that has been under wraps for 10 months.

"Everything will be a revelation to us," said Ruth Jones, a criminal law professor at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento and a former prosecutor. "This case is unique in that sense."

Peterson's preliminary hearing, which likely will last five days, could

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Article 1 of 150; 200 words

### PETERSON LAWYER WANTS MURDER TRIAL REJECTED

#### Source: Mercury News Wire Services

The lawyer representing Scott Peterson has asked a judge to throw out an order holding Peterson for trial on charges he killed his wife, Laci Peterson, and the couple's unborn son. Los Angeles attorney Mark Geragos said in a motion filed Monday that police and prosecutors ignored evidence exonerating Peterson of two murder counts. Peterson is charged with two counts of murder and special circumstances that prosecutors will use to seek a death sentence. His wife, Laci Peterson,

**Published on December 24, 2003, Page 10A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 2 of 150; 190 words

### SLAIN WOMAN'S MOTHER SUES IN PETERSON CASE

#### Source: From Mercury News wire services

Laci Peterson's mother brought two lawsuits against Scott Peterson on Friday for the death of his wife and unborn child. Sharon Rocha filed a wrongful death suit as an individual, and filed the second as administrator of Laci Peterson's estate. Both were filed in Stanislaus County Superior Court. The lawsuits, filed in Stanislaus County Superior Court, seek in excess of \$5 million. The civil lawsuits are not likely to move forward until the criminal case against Scott

**Published on December 20, 2003, Page 15A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 3 of 150; 226 words

### PETERSON ATTORNEY MOVES FOR CHANGE OF VENUE

#### Source: Mercury News Wire Services

Scott Peterson's attorney filed a motion Monday to move his double-murder trial out of Stanislaus County, saying news coverage of the case had vilified the former fertilizer salesman. "The lynch-mob atmosphere that has been created in this case has become so poisonous that the nature of the news coverage has in many instances been reduced to nothing more than vilification," defense attorney Mark Geragos said in the motion filed in Stanislaus County Superior

**Published on December 16, 2003, Page 11A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 4 of 150; 254 words

## PETERSON VENUE CHANGE REQUEST STILL PENDING

**Source: Mercury News Wire Services**

Scott Peterson appeared in court Friday, but his defense attorneys did not file a request for a change of venue as expected. The judge granted Peterson's attorney Mark Geragos a two-day extension to file the request. He has until 9 a.m. Monday. The motion to move the trial from Stanislaus County is scheduled to be heard Jan. 8. Scott Peterson pleaded not guilty last week to charges of murdering his wife, Laci Peterson, and their unborn son, denying the allegations that could land him

**Published on December 13, 2003, Page 17A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 5 of 150; 1472 words

## GARCIA ANSWERS CRITICS: 4 PASSING TDS, 2 RUSHING

**Source: DANIEL BROWN, Mercury News**

Even after he left the field, Jeff Garcia had another ovation coming. Coach Dennis Erickson delivered the final handoff in the locker room, pressing the game ball into Garcia's bandaged hands. The 49ers erupted with applause. Teammates clamored for a speech. Garcia relented. "I just thanked them for supporting me through these difficult times," the quarterback said. "It's a great feeling to go out there and remind my teammates how I'm

**Published on December 8, 2003, Page 7D, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 6 of 150; 812 words

## PETERSON PLEADS NOT GUILTY

**Source: BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press**

Scott Peterson pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of murdering his pregnant wife and their unborn son, and a judge scheduled his trial to begin Jan. 26. It was the second time that Peterson, 31, had answered the charges that could send him to death row. He denied the accusations after his arrest in April and was forced to face them again after a judge decided last month there was enough evidence for prosecutors to take the case to trial. "That's correct, your honor,

**Published on December 4, 2003, Page 3A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 7 of 150; 626 words

## STARS OF 'LORD OF THE RINGS' TRILOGY TREATED LIKE ROYALTY IN NEW ZEALAND

**Source: From Mercury News wire services**

New Zealand's usually sleepy capital came awake in a roar of celebration Monday as stars returned for the premiere of the final film in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, parading through the city in open cars flanked by black-shrouded horsemen, orcs and hobbits that inhabit the beloved novels by J.R.R. Tolkien. Wellington's streets were jammed with 100,000 people standing 15-deep to fete the stars, including Liv Tyler, Ian McKellen, Orlando Bloom, Viggo

**Published on December 2, 2003, Page 2A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 8 of 150; 1605 words

## MYSTERY PERSISTS IN PETERSON CASE

**Source: JULIA PRODIS SULEK, Mercury News**

Is that all there is? After 12 days of testimony ended last week and piles of police reports were submitted into evidence to try to prove that Scott Peterson killed his pregnant wife and unborn son, that's the lingering question. A hair, an affair and a fishing trip seemed about all that were needed to persuade a Stanislaus County judge to make Peterson stand trial sometime next year. But do prosecutors have enough evidence to



convince a jury that Peterson killed his wife and dumped

**Published on November 23, 2003, Page 3A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 9 of 150; 845 words

## **UGLY TWIST IN PECULIAR LIFE**

**Source: MIKE ANTONUCCI, Mercury News**

From moon walk to perp walk?The life of Michael Jackson -- as odd, outrageous and seemingly out-of-control as any in celebrity history -- has taken the kind of ugly turn that will shock no one, yet baffle almost everyone."How did it get to this?" is the essence of the questions pouring out, worldwide, after authorities issued an arrest warrant for Jackson, 45, on multiple counts of molesting a child.The details of the allegations are unknown, and an angry

**Published on November 20, 2003, Page 1A, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

Article 10 of 150; 547 words

## **UCONN BREEZES PAST NEVADA**

**Source: MERCURY NEWS WIRE SERVICES**

Ben Gordon was well on his way to a career night when the sellout crowd at Gampel Pavilion started chanting "You can't stop him" with 14 minutes to play.Nevada needed no reminder.Gordon scored 37 points Wednesday to lead No. 1 Connecticut to a 93-79 victory in Storrs, Conn., and into the Preseason National Invitation Tournament semifinals."Ben was doing all the scoring, the cheerleading. It was the B.G. show tonight.  
The Ben Gordon

**Published on November 20, 2003, Page 5D, San Jose Mercury News (CA)**

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Mark Geragos  
213-625-1600

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Karen M. Vella

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