

1 ROOM, NO VIEW



COURTESY OF MICHAEL TOWNSEND

James Mercer and Colin Bliss sit in a room they helped to build and furnish with performance artist Michael Townsend in the parking garage at Providence Place mall. Only Townsend was charged by authorities.

'Apartment' found in mall

A group of artists secretly equip a loft over a storage room in the Providence Place parking garage and pass the time there for almost four years.

**BY GREGORY SMITH
and PHILIP MARCELO**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

PROVIDENCE — Eight artists snuck into the depths of Providence Place mall and built a secret studio apartment in which they stayed, on and off, for nearly four years until mall security finally caught their leader last week.

The story of their audacious stunt — they call it performance art — spilled out in District Court, after the leader, Michael J. Townsend, 36, of Providence, was arrested. He pleaded no contest to a criminal charge of trespassing.

Townsend, a self-described "professional public artist," said the clandestine project was born of a wish to explore the phenomenon of the modern American enclosed mall, its social implications, and his own relationship with commerce and the world.

Pointedly acting without approval from anyone, Townsend, his wife, Adriana Yoto, 29, and six others in a tightly knit artist collective produced the project and have documented it with video on Web sites.

The casually furnished, unheated apartment was in a 750-square-foot loft beneath an I-beam and above an unused dusty storage room in the mall parking garage that was accessed through a door in a stairwell, according to Townsend, his fellow artists and the police.

The collective labored mightily to haul in more than

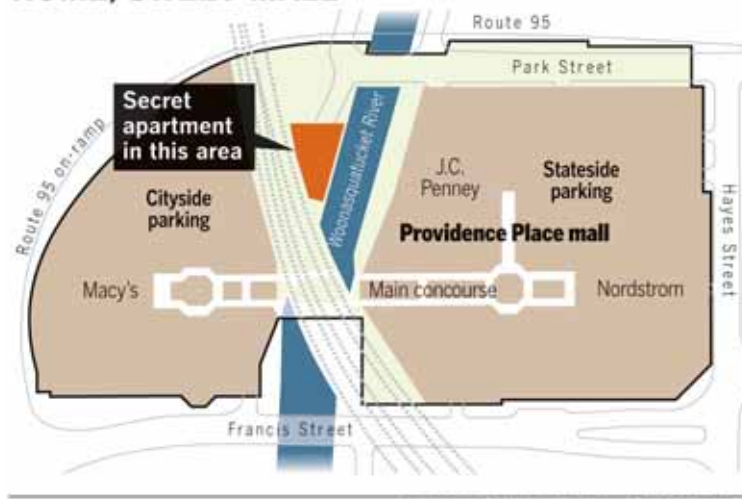
SEE **MALL, A2**



Michael Townsend drives past the Providence Place mall yesterday. Townsend, who shared the secret space with his wife and several others, pleaded no contest to a trespassing violation last week.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL /
ANDREW DICKERMAN

HOME, SWEET MALL



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GEORGE SYLVIA

War deaths in Iraq lower last month

Military officials say the U.S. troop surge has put pressure on insurgent and militia fighters.

BY STEVEN R. HURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — The number of American troops and Iraqi civilians killed in the war fell last month to levels not seen in more than a year. The U.S. military said the lower count was at least partly a result of new strategies and 30,000 additional U.S. forces deployed this year.

Although it is difficult to draw conclusions from a single month's tally, the figures could suggest U.S.-led forces are making headway against extremist factions and disrupting their ability to strike back.

The U.S. military toll for September was 64, the lowest since July 2006, according to figures compiled by The Associated Press from death announcements by the American command and Pentagon.

More dramatic, however, was the decline in Iraqi civilian, police and military deaths. The figure was 988 in September — 50 percent lower than the previous month and the lowest tally since June 2006, when 847 Iraqis died.

The Iraqi death count is considered a minimum based on AP reporting. The actual number is probably higher, as many killings go unreported.

Nevertheless, the heartening numbers emerged just three weeks after U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and commander Gen. David Petraeus argued before a divided Congress that more time was needed for Iraq to begin seeing results from President Bush's dispatch of an additional 30,000 forces to pacify Baghdad and surrounding regions.

Yesterday they issued an unusual joint statement to the Iraqi people that credited them for the decline in violence.

"We must maintain the momentum that together we have achieved. We are confident that you and your fellow citizens will

SEE **IRAQ, A8**

Optimism pushes Dow to new record

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surges past 14,087, reflecting growing sentiment on Wall Street that the upheaval in global credit markets is abating.

BY WALTER HAMILTON and TOM PETRUNO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged to a new high yesterday, a strong sign that Wall Street thinks the worst of the global credit crunch has passed.

The U.S. stock market's best-known index was up 191.92 points, or 1.4 percent, to 14,087.55 at the closing bell, eclipsing the previous all-time high of 14,000.41 set July 19.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite soared 39.49 points, or 1.5 percent, to 2,740.99, its best level in more than six years.

Other market indexes also

were up sharply but still below their summer highs. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 20.29 points, or 1.3 percent, to close at 1,547.04, shy of its record close of 1,553.08 set July 19.

The S&P 500 is up 9.1 percent year to date, the Dow is up 13 percent and the Nasdaq is up 13.5 percent.

The rally on the first day of the fourth quarter was propelled in part by news from financial giant Citigroup Inc., which said its third-quarter earnings would fall

SEE **STOCKS, A6**

Celona returns to R.I.; federal probe grinds on

His transfer from a Pennsylvania prison to the Wyatt Detention Center probably means movement in the State House corruption probe.

BY MIKE STANTON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

John Celona is back in town, a sign that the long-running federal corruption probe of the Rhode Island State House is heating up.

The convicted former senator from North Providence, whose State House double-dealing sparked the sprawling investigation known as Operation Dollar Bill, has been quietly moved from a federal prison in western Pennsylvania to the Donald W. Wyatt De-

tention Center in Central Falls.

In March, Celona began serving a 2½-year prison term after he pleaded guilty to using his public office for private gain

and agreed to cooperate with the authorities against some of his former legislative colleagues. Celona's assistance, a prosecutor told a

SEE **CELONA, A2**

projo.com

Extra: For our special report on the Celona corruption case, go to projo.com

The key to happiness? Try not expecting it

BY SHANKAR VEDANTAM
THE WASHINGTON POST

Ten years ago, Harry Lewenstein was riding a bike down a hill in southern Portugal when he hit a bump without warning. The 70-year-old retired electronics executive was going fast, and the shock propelled him over the handlebars. He suffered severe spinal cord damage, and had no feeling below his chest.

Back at his home in California, it became clear that the injury had permanently deprived Lewenstein of all control over his legs. He had limited use of his arms but could not pick anything up with his hands. His fingers were rigidly curled.

Now 80, Lewenstein has outlived many predictions of his death, but that is not the most remarkable thing about him: He has spent no time, he says, feeling sorry for himself or regretting the accident. He knows he was riding the bike faster than he should have.

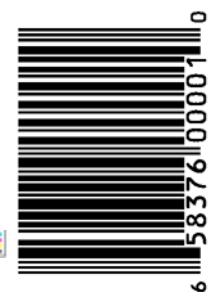
SEE **HAPPINESS, A2**

Moss on the march



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Randy Moss barrels into the Cincinnati Bengals' Madieu Williams with one of his 9 receptions for 109 yards in the New England Patriots' 34-13 win last night. Coverage continues in **Sports, C1**.



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A CHILD SOLDIER'S TALE

When he was 12, Ishmael Beah was memorizing Shakespeare, learning hip-hop moves and enjoying his childhood in Sierra Leone. A year later, he was armed, drugged up and killing "too many people to count" in that country's civil war. Now 27 and an activist for nonviolence, he will speak Thursday at Roger Williams University. **F1**

LNG GAINS UNION SUPPORT

There's no shortage of opposition to the liquefied natural gas terminal proposed for Weaver's Cove in Fall River, but two unions say the project would benefit their members and the community. **E1**

SOX SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



Boston had a memorable season, from Daisuke Matsuzaka's debut on April 5 to Saturday night's attainment of home-field advantage throughout post-season play. A look back at the highlights. **C5**