



# Top of the Times

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Wednesday, April 13, 2005

## TOP STORIES

### [Villaraigosa Holds a Large, Diverse Lead](#)

BY MICHAEL FINNEGAN

Antonio Villaraigosa has opened an 18-point lead over incumbent James K. Hahn in the Los Angeles mayoral race, with nearly every large voting bloc supporting his effort to bounce Hahn from City Hall, according to a new Times poll.

### [County Health Chief Is Rebuked](#)

BY CHARLES ORNSTEIN AND TRACY WEBER

Frustrated over recent deaths at King/Drew, supervisors order the agency's leader to move his office to the hospital and increase oversight.

### [U.N. Pick Called Bully Who Abused His Power](#)

BY SONNI EERON

WASHINGTON-The State Department's former intelligence chief testified Tuesday that John R. Bolton was a "serial abuser" of underlings who tried to remove an intelligence analyst who disagreed with him and was "a quintessential kiss-up, kick-down sort of guy."

### [Opening to Mixed Reviews](#)

BY DAVID WHARTON AND BEN BOLCH

Some Dodger fans aren't happy about the new seats and advertising. ATMs, though, are a hit.

### [Tribes Seek State Law Granting Tax Breaks to Expand Resorts](#)

BY EVAN HALPER AND DAN MORAIN

SACRAMENTO-Wealthy California Indian tribes that use millions of dollars in federal tax breaks to finance expansion of gambling resorts are gathering support for similar tax breaks from the state.

### [Baghdad's Blast Walls Protect, Annoy](#)

BY DOUG SMITH AND SAIF RASHEED

BAGHDAD-Concrete slabs shield foreign firms from bombs, but also disrupt traffic and look bad.

### [Beijing's Losing Hand](#)

BY MARK MAGNIER

RUIJI, China-China is cracking down on casinos and asking its neighbors to do the same. But in a nation of born bettors, the bid gets long odds.

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## THE WORLD

### [Seniors Rally Around Mayor of Mexico City](#)

BY MARLA DICKERSON

MEXICO CITY-In a nation without universal social security, \$64 a month for the elderly gains Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador ardent supporters.

### [Who the Next Pope Will Be Is Up for Speculation](#)

BY JEFFREY FLEISHMAN

CASTELNUOVO DI PORTO, Italy-Papal bettors are placing their trust in God and gut. A Nigerian cardinal gets the best odds to be the new pontiff, one gambling service says.

[Betting: Vietnam and America in Asia](#)

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